

Hafa Adai!

Sablan, Manglona urge swift action in finding \$5M for Medicaid match. **PAGE 3**

A daughter of the CNMI on the rise in field of medicine. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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Novavax vaccine now available

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, will be offering the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted for individuals 18 years of age and older.

The Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted is administered as a two-dose primary series, three weeks apart. The vaccine contains the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein antigen.

See **NOVAVAX** on **Page 4**



A LESSON IN CANOE CARVING

Midshipman Aidan Otero from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, learns the science and art of traditional canoe construction under the guidance of trades helper Orlando Limes during a visit yesterday to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture's Canoe/Navigation Project in Susupe.

WALT GOODRIDGE

Story on
page 3

Russia repeats Putin's new message against a nuclear war

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

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- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—

A Russian official on Tuesday twice repeated President Vladimir Putin's new message that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," apparently trying to roll back on Putin's warning after the Ukraine invasion that Russia is a "potent" nuclear power and any attempt to interfere

would lead to "consequences you have never seen."

Putin's comment then dramatically escalated global tensions, which rose even further days later when he ordered Russian nuclear forces put on high alert.

Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's nonproliferation and arms control program, started his country's address to

See **RUSSIA** on **Page 4**

CUC's \$150 credit came from \$1.5M balance from previous voucher program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Terlaje



Deleon Guerrero

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s \$150 credit for its residential electric accounts in July came from the remaining \$1.5 million balance in American Rescue Plan Act funding that the government gave to CUC for the previous voucher program.

Speaking at the Saipan and Northern Is-

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The United States is working with Japan and other countries to counter China's efforts to use its economic might.

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NATION

Two more bodies were found within the burn zone of a huge Northern California wildfire.

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ASIA

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says her visit to Taiwan shows that the U.S. will not abandon its ally.

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Local

John Castro-Mames, front, who is the Canoe Program Coordinator for the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, is joined in this photo by, standing from left, Charlie Sewell, Ellie Dabney, Molly Mangan, Capt. Bob Qu, Aidan Otero, Ava Izenour, Becca Vavasseur, Col. Maria "MJ" Pallotta, Ph.D., Carson Hillier, Willy Kaitabu, and DiscoverSaipan tour guide Walt Goodridge.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT GOODRIDGE



Naval Academy cadets soak in culture, history in CNMI visit

By **ALDWIN BATUSIN**
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CORRESPONDENT

A group from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland swung by the Canoe/Navigation Project of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture in Supe yesterday where they learned about the island's ancient maritime tradition and tried their hand at making a traditional canoe.

The group of nine cadets, composed of a mixed group of sophomores and juniors who are taking part in a Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Program at the U.S. Naval Academy, is visiting Saipan and Tinian from July 31 to Aug. 5 as part of their battlefield studies and to experience language and culture immersion. Their itinerary includes all-day tours of Saipan and Tinian, which included a pit stop yesterday at the canoe house.

One of the members of the group, Capt. Bob Qu, said

the visit to the canoe house allowed them to "observe sort of the cultural aspect of the shipbuilding program." He met the shipbuilders present to understand their work in terms of reviving the maritime traditions of the islands.

He said they also went on a trek to Forbidden Island and other parts of the island, which showed them the island's natural beauty on the east side.

Col. Maria Pallotta, who is a reserve with the U.S. Marine Corps, found interacting with island residents to be a pleasant experience. "Everyone has been so friendly to us," she said. She admits that she did not meet Pacific Islanders until she joined the Marine Corps and was stationed in Okinawa.

Pallotta also was impressed to see how celestial navigation between the Navy and master navigators are learned differently. "Seeing them kind of learn the science of what they've been doing here

in a 4,000-year culture is really, really great," she said.

The experience reminded her of the other island cultures she visited throughout the Western Pacific and her other travels.

Midshipman First Class Aidan Otero said their visit has made him think that the Marianas in general "has a much bigger role in this world than I gave them credit for." He said the Marianas has "such a rich culture that we [are] duty-bound to respect."

Walt Goodridge, who is a part-time tour guide with DiscoverSaipan, said his clientele tend to be older people who are familiar with Saipan's history of World War II and the Battle of Saipan, "but these guys are actually training to become officers." He finds them very invested and excited to see where the Battle of Saipan occurred and to understand the culture and its modern life. "They're very interested in the culture. They want to make sure that they don't live their lives as outsiders to the region they're assigned."

The experience also teaches these potential officers cultural sensitivity and allows them to experience the place where they may be stationed in the future.

"They're young. They're energetic and ask tons of questions, and they really immerse themselves in the culture to leave with a very rounded view of life here," he added.

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2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 500308
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or contact 670-322-7337
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

D & T (CNMI), Inc.
P.O. Box 500308, Saipan, MP 96950

Sablan, Manglona urge swift action in finding \$5M for Medicaid match

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Saying the ripple effects of losing \$28 million in federal Medicaid money will be devastating, Reps. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) urged Gov. Ralph DLG Torres Tuesday to exercise his 25% reprogramming authority



Sablan

under the Planning and Budgeting Act to immediately transfer the required \$5 million local matching funds to the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency.

In their joint letter to Torres, Sablan and Manglona said the governor may also direct the Finance secretary to expeditiously provide the House of Representatives with an updated status of all accounts to assist them in identifying the funding sources for an amendment to Public Law 22-08, the Annual Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

Sablan and Manglona chair the House Health and Welfare Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, respectively.

During the Health and Welfare Committee meeting last Thursday, acting director for the CNMI Medicaid Agency Vicenta Borja disclosed that if there is no available \$5 million local match for Medicaid's federal allotments for fiscal year 2023, the CNMI must return \$28 million in available funds.

Borja and other CMA officials explained that American Rescue Plan Act funding cannot be used to meet the local matching requirement for Medicaid as previously believed, pursuant to a rule issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, the final rule implementing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

As a result, Borja said, if approximately \$5 million for the local match is not identified and remitted in this current fiscal year, the Commonwealth will have to return an estimated \$28 million to the federal government.

Sablan and Manglona told

Torres that the consequences of losing \$28 million in Medicaid funding will be catastrophic for Marianas residents.

They said the CMA will have to shut down critical services and suspend payments to providers and vendors.

The lawmakers said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will then be the only healthcare provider available

to Medicaid patients, further straining CHCC's medical staff and resources and exacerbating already-long wait times

for appointments.

Sablan and Manglona said an estimated 24,000 people

See **SABLAN** on Next Page

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18HS979	2018	KIA FORTE	\$19,205	\$14,995
21D019C	2017	MAZDA 3 SPORT SEDAN	\$19,253	\$15,995
15P325	2015	TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$20,295	\$15,995
17P341	2018	MAZDA 6 SPORT SEDAN	\$20,769	\$16,995
16P360	2016	MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	\$18,672	\$17,995
17P365	2017	HYUNDAI TUCSON SE	\$19,752	\$17,995
8H054E	2019	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$21,651	\$18,995
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18P452	2018	MAZDA MX5 CLUB CONVERTIBLE	\$30,257	\$27,995
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• KBB: \$27,271 • 33,750 MILES • STK: 22M050A

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CPA excited for MSA's inaugural flights

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is excited for Marianas Southern Airways to begin flying starting this month.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CPA is

excited for MSA to begin its inter-island flight service, which is tentatively supposed to begin on Aug. 12.

"We're really excited about the new entry to the market, about an additional carrier that's going to be able to provide interisland flight service to the people of the Northern Marianas linking up all the

three islands and also to Guam. It's exciting times," she said.

King-Hinds added that MSA's decision to launch its flights at such low, promotional rates at this time of the year is great as CNMI families now have the opportunity to fly either to Guam or Saipan to do some back-to-school shopping.

"It's always good to have options and the fact that they are offering promotional fares for a few months. That's a very welcome added bonus for the people especially at a time where folks are thinking about going back to school shopping, we also have the holidays coming up, and so, obviously shopping is on the mind for many people and it's exciting," King-Hinds said.

During last week's board meeting, the board unanimously granted MSA's application to lease CPA property to build their own hangar where they will store their new airplanes.

In statement from CPA chair King-Hinds, she said the approval was significant for both CPA and MSA as it ultimately is an investment for the people of the Marianas.

"Because we do have typhoon seasons out here, you want to keep your planes out of the elements and properly secure them so that's an investment that they want to make

as part of this service that they're providing to the people of the Marianas, which we are so incredibly excited about. It's not a significant amount of money but obviously, it's more about the type of investment that Marianas Southern Air is making in the CNMI," she said.

The CPA chair added that the money from the lease agreement will count as non-aviation revenue, which CPA needs.

"This would be non-aviation revenue, which is badly needed at this time, given the fact that we just don't have the arrivals that we were anticipating with the opening of our borders. This is one way of basically diversifying our means to be able to be self-sustainable. We have the aviation side, which we count on, and those are the landing fees, deplanement fees, etc., and then we have the non-aviation side, which is our leases and our rentals so this would go toward that," she said.

MSA is the CNMI's newest airline that promises to provide air-service with the ultimate goal of reconnecting the Marianas.

RUSSIA

From Page 1

the pandemic-delayed conference to review the 50-year-old Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty by reading Putin's message to participants against a nuclear war. And he repeated the same words later.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in his speech at Monday's opening, called Putin's warnings after the Ukraine invasion "reckless, dangerous nuclear saber-rattling."

What impact Putin's new commitment has remains to be seen.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola Tochytyskiy told Monday's high-level meeting that Putin's open threat to the world on Russia's ability to use nuclear weapons had been backed by "clear calls to do so by the Russian state media."

"Think tanks and experts widely argue on what type of nuclear weapons—tactical or strategic—Russia will use during the ongoing war against Ukraine," he said. "This is the background for our NPT review conference."

Defending Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, Vishnevetsky cited an expanded NATO that he said is "seeking undivided military, strategic and geopolitical dominance" and forced Moscow to defend its "core security interests."

Russia "has been subjected to a hybrid military campaign fraught with a slide into a direct armed conflict between nuclear powers," he said. "Moreover, the arms control system, which has traditionally been a core pillar of international security and stability, is currently facing a crisis that has no precedent in recent history in terms of its scale."

Vishnevetsky made no mention

of Putin's warning and action after invading Ukraine, but he said given the current situation "it is more critical than ever that the nuclear powers behave with restraint and responsibility."

He noted that in a joint statement in January the five nuclear powers—Russia, United States, China, Britain and France—reiterated that a nuclear war should never be fought and can't be won and emphasized "the need to prevent not only a nuclear confrontation but also any military confrontation between nuclear powers."

"It is imperative that all signatories demonstrate in deeds their commitment to these provisions," the Russian official said.

The review conference, which ends Aug. 26, is aimed at strengthening the NPT, which is considered the cornerstone of international disarmament efforts. Its goal is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and eventually achieve a nuclear-free world, and it has the widest support of any arms control agreement, with 191 parties to the treaty.

Under the NPT's provisions, the five original nuclear powers agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday and nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them in exchange for a guarantee to be able to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong, head of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, whose country has close ties to Russia, told delegates Tuesday that "the NPT is significantly strained and even faces new and the most severe challenges since the end of the Cold War."

"The specter of Cold War mentality is there to stay," he said, pointing to a deteriorating global

strategic security environment, "the outdated approach to security based on military alliances" and the growing risk of an arms race and conflicts.

Fu called for the five nuclear powers "to work together to reduce nuclear risks," strengthen communications on strategic stability "and conduct in-depth dialogue on reducing the role of nuclear weapons in their national security doctrines and on a broad range of issues including missile defense, outer space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence."

Blinken, America's top diplomat, said Monday that the U.S. chose "to act with restraint" in response to Russia's actions and avoid anything that could unintentionally raise nuclear tensions. As examples, he said the U.S. abandoned previously scheduled tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and did not raise the alert status of its nuclear forces "in response to Russia's saber-rattling."

"There is no place in our world—no place in our world—for nuclear deterrence based on coercion, intimidation or blackmail," Blinken said. "We have to stand together in rejecting this."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sounded the alarm at Monday's opening over the war in Ukraine, nuclear threats in Asia and the Middle East, and other tensions, warning that "humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

Blinken said the U.S., United Kingdom and France have released a set of principles and best practices that all NPT nuclear weapon states should adhere to, "among them that every effort has to be made to ensure that nuclear weapons are not used again."

NOVAVAX

From Page 1

CoV-2 spike protein and Matrix-M adjuvant. Adjuvants are incorporated into some vaccines to enhance the immune response of the vaccinated individual.

According to the CDC, protein subunit vaccines package harmless proteins of the COVID-19 virus alongside another ingredient called an adjuvant that helps the immune system respond to the virus in the future. Vaccines using protein subunits have been used for more than 30 years in the U.S., beginning with the first licensed hepatitis B vaccine. Other protein subunit vaccines used in U.S. today include those to protect against influenza (flu) and whooping cough (acellular pertussis).

Eligible individuals can obtain a COVID-19 primary or booster shot by calling the CHCC Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745 for scheduling and information.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at the following locations: Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone—and continue to undergo—the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Side effects that happen within seven days of getting vaccinated are common but are mostly mild and only last a few days. Some people have reactions that affect their ability to do daily activities.

Clinical trials demonstrate that the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of COVID-19, including the risk of severe illness and death. However, studies from other COVID-19 vaccines have shown that protection declines over time especially with the omicron variant.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines

CHCC will host COVID-19 vaccination outreaches every Saturday of August 2022 (Aug. 6, 13, 20, and 27) at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall, next to Mount Carmel cathedral, from 8:30am to 4pm on a walk-in basis.

Parents/guardians must register for their children who are under 18 years of age. All necessary forms will be available on-site. A government issued ID or birth certificate is required at the time of registration. **(CHCC)**

CUC

From Page 1

lands Legislative Delegation Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee meeting in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday, CUC chief of administration Betty G. Terlaje said they received from the government a check for \$7.5 million for the first distribution last January when the CNMI government gave \$500 credit for all active electric customers.

Terlaje said the total distribution for the \$500 voucher was \$6 million and the remaining \$1.5 million was re-allocated to the \$150 credit for each residential account.

Customers can expect to see the \$150 credit in this month's CUC billings. Last June, CUC announced that they have been permitted to reallocate funds granted to CUC by the Governor's Office to provide short term relief to the current Fuel Adjustment Charge crisis.

CUC said all active residential accounts will be credited \$150 for the month of July.

At yesterday's SNILD JGO meeting, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) asked CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho what impact the \$150 credit has had in terms of alleviating the burden on CUC residential customers. Camacho said he does

not know how to answer that other than to say that residential customers would pay \$150 less.

SNILD JGO Committee chair Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) pointed out that on Jan. 13, 2022, it was published that 12,682 electric accounts have received a credit of \$500 each, which totals \$6 million. DeLeon Guerrero asked whether CUC did receive only \$6 million or the entire \$7.5 million of ARPA funds for those \$500 vouchers.

"If \$7.5 million was received, what was done to the remaining \$1.5 million? Will it fund the \$150 voucher set to come out in July 2022?" the senator asked.

Terlaje agreed that DeLeon Guerrero's assumption is correct.

Sablan then asked for updates on how many customers have been disconnected since the rates, or the Fuel Adjustment Charge, went up in May and June. Terlaje said she does not have the number that day as disconnections occur daily.

Terlaje said customers were allowed to use local stimulus funds for their reconnection fees and deposits or whatever they needed to get their power back.

"So I think we have a slight increase in the account of customers as opposed to disconnections," she said.

Sablan urged CUC to explain the FAC in layman's term as many people don't understand its computation.

SABLAN

From Page 3

availing of Medicaid now through Presumptive Eligibility may be prematurely disenrolled even before the national public health emergency ends, and this is expected to drive up the cost of uncompensated care for CHCC.

They said that, as Borja noted during the meeting last week, the people who will be hurt the most and immediately will be patients in need of medical referral, whose access to off-island care will be disrupted.

"Relationships with off-island providers may also be jeopardized and will be difficult to rebuild," Sablan and Manglona said.

They told Torres that the urgency of this matter demands swift resolution. The lawmakers said their two proposed courses of action will address the local funding needs of the CMA and to protect the interests of the 38,000 residents now enrolled in Medicaid.

Noting that there may be other potential solutions, Sablan and Manglona said they are ready to assist in their capacities as chairpersons of House committees and as House members.

A daughter of the CNMI on the rise in field of medicine

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Stepping closer to her goals, a CNMI homegrown academic standout, Ageline Sahagun, is on track to receive her medical degree from the Weill Medical

College at the Cornell University in New York next year.

This was learned after the University of Guam announced early this year that five individuals from their Class of 2017 were approaching the end of their medical

school journey, and the beginning of their careers in the medical field.

During an interview with the University of Guam that was later issued as a news release, Sahagun, along with four other UOG alumni, shared her goals and the driving force behind her ambition in the medical field. For Sahagun, it was personal, like so many others in her field.

"I was born and raised [on] Saipan, where both my mom and dad had been diagnosed with cancer in two separate instances," she said. "As my family experienced these hardships, it became apparent to me the vast need for more doctors, both general practice and specialized, in the Pacific Islands."

When asked of her future plans, she said, "I am planning to apply to combined pediatrics-emergency medicine residencies. With this combined program, I will be board-certified in both pediatrics and emergency medicine and will have the flexibility of caring for adult patients if needed. [...] I believe my role for the future is to become a potential uniting force for partnerships with medical schools and UOG. I want to make it easier for students from Guam



This photo taken from her Facebook page shows Ageline Sahagun posing for a picture at the Weill Medical College-Cornell University in New York.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and the CNMI to make their dreams a reality."


As part of UOG's Class of

2017, Sahagun spoke well of her experience at the university, highlighting the chemistry

among her biology cohorts. "I believe what motivated many in my cohort was the friendship and tight-knit sense of community that could only develop at a small school like ours. It never felt like we were competing with each other; we never hesitated to lend out a helping hand or to share resources. ... We would encourage and check up on each other while studying for the MCAT [Medical College Admission Test], while preparing for interviews, and we confided in each other's rejections and acceptances as well," she said.


The UOG news release noted that 17% of the individuals involved in the cohort, including Sahagun, are currently in medical school.

In her early years, Sahagun had topped all her classes; from her time in Garapan Elementary School, to her brief years at Hopwood Junior High School, and finally leading Marianas High School's graduating class in 2012 as class valedictorian. She continued her college studies at the University of Guam and graduated with summa cum laude honors in 2017, with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Sahagun is set to complete her medical studies in May next year.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 22 – 082

Opening Date: July 26, 2022
Closing Date: August 8, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Customer Service/Call Center
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Technician. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS.


Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 10:30AM** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

To minimize the threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j> (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
 - CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2022-043
Project: SHINING STAR HOTEL REHABILITATION PROJECT
Applicant: SHINING STAR, INC.
The Shining Star, Inc. is proposing to rehabilitate the former Koreana Hotel building for the operation of the Shining Star Hotel on Juan Nong Street in Chalan Kanoa, District No. 4, Saipan. The hotel is a four-story building composed of thirty-six (36) rooms and ten (10) parking stalls.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination
 - CRM Permit Application No. SMS-00-X-129-A1
Project: CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE AS GONNO TRANSFER STATION
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct and operate the As Gonno Transfer Station on Lot No. 046 K 02 in As Gonno, Saipan. The facility includes an office, small track scale, covered tipping floor, roll-off container storage yard, recycling building, ponding basin, septic tank/leaching field, oil-water separator, and small generator for the truck scale.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination
- OTHER MATTERS
 - ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO NMIAC 15-10, Coastal Resource Management Rules and Regulations to allow remote participation of CRM Officials
 - Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate regulation amendments
- ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

USCIS updates clause's interpretation for military naturalization

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is publishing an update to its Policy Manual to clarify that a current or former service member who received an uncharacterized discharge may be eligible for naturalization under sections 328 and 329 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act.

Previously, USCIS had interpreted the requirement for a separation "under honorable conditions" in INA 328 and INA 329 to require a separation characterized as either Honorable or General-

Under Honorable Conditions. This policy guidance changes the USCIS interpretation of "under honorable conditions" to encompass Uncharacterized discharges as well as Honorable and General-Under Honorable Conditions discharges.

This interpretation aligns with a Department of Defense instruction on the interpretation of discharges and with a recent district court decision. This guidance will be effective upon publication of the Policy Manual update

and will apply to all pending and future applications. Applicants whom USCIS previously denied can submit a new application without fee.

USCIS will no longer accept combined fee payments For EB-5, Immigrant Investor Program applications or petitions

Beginning Sept. 1, 2022, USCIS will no longer accept a single, combined fee payment when an applicant or petitioner files Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Standalone Investor, or Form I-526E, Immigrant Petition

by Regional Center Investor, together with Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, Form 131, Application for Travel Document, or Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. Petitioners may combine the fee payment for Forms I-485, I-131 and I-765. However, petitioners must send a separate fee payment for Form I-526 or I-526E.

If a petitioner or applicant submits a single, combined fee payment for Form

I-526 or I-526E and the other forms, we will reject the forms for improper fee payment and return the fee.

USCIS is transitioning to electronic processing of immigration benefit requests. As we complete this transition, we will be using multiple systems to receipt and process various types of immigration benefit requests. The Form I-526 and I-526E petitions and related applications are not all processed in the same system, so a separate payment instrument

for each of these forms is required. We acknowledge that using multiple checks or payments for petitions and related applications is more burdensome than using one payment. However, we believe that the advantages of electronic processing to both the agency and to the public outweigh the impact of submitting individual fee payments.

For more information on the EB-5 program, visit our EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program webpage. (PR)

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Villagomez files candidacy for 7th term

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez filed yesterday afternoon his candidacy as an independent for his 7th term in the House representing Precinct 3.

Accompanied by family members, supporters, and the committee to elect him, Villagomez submitted his petition for nomination and candidacy documents to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol inside CEC office in Susupe.

Among those who came to show their support were Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), House Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta.

Babauta is chairman of the Committee to Elect Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang 2022, who are running as gov-



House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez signs documents for his candidacy for his 7th term in the House representing Precinct 3, before Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol yesterday afternoon. Also in the photo are Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), family members, supporters, and officials of the committee to elect Villagomez.

ernor and lieutenant governor, respectively, under a unified independent team.

When asked why he is seeking a 7th term in the Nov. 8

general election, Villagomez said he loves what he does and there are still a lot of issues and challenges that the CNMI is facing. He noted that

the American Rescue Plan Act funding is coming to its end.

"I want to continue to serve the people by trying to be part in helping in improv-

ing the economy and also the other services to our people," he said.

Villagomez described his tenure as speaker in the 22nd

Legislature as "very interesting," noting the collaborative efforts among all party lines under his leadership.

"We have the Democrats chairing committees. We have a Republican floor leader and vice speaker, and an independent speaker, which is myself," Villagomez said.

Villagomez said he tried to bring the gap closer and have everybody work together, irrespective of party lines.

"In one of our first sessions, it took four days to pass certain bills and a bill introduced by those on the minority side," he said.

Villagomez was the top vote-getter for Precinct 3 at the Nov. 3, 2020, general election. He has been serving the House since the 17th Legislature. He was elected in his first two terms under the Covenant Party.

He became the House speaker in January 2021 after Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) flipped his vote and broke the even split in the voting for the speakership.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD22-RFP NO.: 42200133
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 22, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Review and update existing Scope of Work (SOW) for the Landfill Operation and will incorporate current standards of landfill operation to improve the quality and function management required for the Marpi Sanitary Landfill Facility, Saipan".

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 25, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base, Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **August 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on August 12, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200139
SUBMISSION DATE: September 07, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 04, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on August 30, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiyah)
P.O. Box 500730 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff
Marianas Public Land Trust

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<p>MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, and PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Iarde, Successor in Interest, Defendants</p>	<p>CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0169</p> <p>AMENDED SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION</p>
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TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA:

You have been made as Defendants in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), on its **COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE**.

You may file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within **Twenty-One (21) Days** after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiyah), P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 27th day of July 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

/s/
Clerk of Court

Name: Antonio G. Lloren
Address: P.O. Box 505580
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670)285-4122
Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<p>ANTONIO G. LLOREN Petitioner, vs. ANGELA P. LLOREN Respondent,</p>	<p>FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0138</p> <p>SUMMONS</p>
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TO: ANGELA P. LLOREN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to ANTONIO G. LLOREN whose address is P.O. Box 505580, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

/s/
Clerk of Court

Hawaii school named for US leader muddles alumni identity

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—In Hawaii, there's a common question posed in the pidgin language of the islands: "Where you went grad?"

Knowing where someone went to high school has long been an important identity marker for Hawaii residents and helps connect people in the state's close-knit communities. It's an affiliation that goes far deeper than rooting for a certain team or cross-town rivalries.

"It's how you understand your place in Hawaii and your belonging," said Ty P. Kāwika Tengan, a professor in the Departments of Ethnic Studies and Anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "It tells all these stories about race, class and other things that are kind of implied by the school and the communities that you imagine go there."

But for some, answering that question gets complicated when the school bears the name of President William McKinley, who many Native Hawaiians disdain for his role in the annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom to the United States. And now a proposal to change the name of Honolulu's McKinley High School has sharply divided graduates, often along generational lines.

Sautia Tanoa, a 2005 graduate, said changing the name to Honolulu High—the name the school bore before it was changed to McKinley in 1907—is appropriate and would help rekindle his pride in the school.

"As I grew up and I got more educated about the history ... all of these names that were chosen or celebrated were the very ones that overtook the place," he said. "In the sense of historical justice, if I can be one of the many voices asking to restore the name, I can be a little bit more proud of being part of the effort and also being part of that school."

But even talking about changing the school's name makes 1979 graduate Suzanne Chun Oakland cry.

"It was like stabbing me in the heart," the former state lawmaker said of hearing about the effort. "It's like going into your family and saying you have to change your family name."

The debate comes amid a growing movement across the islands to restore traditional Hawaiian place names to honor and respect Native Hawaiian culture and history.

What used to be known as Barbers Point in west Oahu is now Kalaeloa. On Kauai, Fort Elisabeth State Historical Park was renamed to Pa'ūla'ūla. Iconic Diamond

Head is increasingly being called Leahi and some people prefer to say Puuloa instead of Pearl Harbor.

The movement to return to traditional names stretches beyond Hawaii, with efforts afoot across the United States. One of the most high-profile name changes also involved McKinley: North America's tallest mountain, which was named after the former president for more than a century, was returned to its previous name, Denali, in 2015 to honor Alaska Natives.

But the attachment many in Hawaii feel toward their high school is proving to be an unlikely stumbling block in the growing quest for authenticity in the islands, where some public schools are named for their locations and some are named after people, including the businessmen who dominated during Hawaii's sugar plantation past.

Less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from McKinley High, Central Middle School changed its name to Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani Middle School—a change some say was easy because "Where you went grad" always refers to high school.

Hawaii's statewide public school teachers union has backed plans to change McKinley High's name.

The school's "name glorifies a man who illegally annexed a country against the will of her queen and people," the union wrote last year urging members to support a legislative resolution on the matter.

The resolution stalled in the last legislative session, as did another calling for the Big Island community of Captain Cook to be restored to its original name of Kaawaloa.

"I think we're in this time period where people are really starting to recognize just the changes that need to be made, the historical wrongdoings that have been done towards Native and Indigenous peoples, and the importance of restoring place names," said state Rep. Jeanne Kapela, who introduced the name change resolutions.

Kapela said she understands people may resist changing names of places they feel connected to.

"I have my own affinity to my own alma mater, but the reality is that no matter what the school is named, that school sits on a place," said Kapela, who graduated from Konawaena High School, which means central Kona, where it's located. "It's the community that built us. And that community is based on a place name. In order to honor that community, we have to honor the place it's

standing on."

In arguing to keep the name, McKinley High's principal, Ron Okamura, also cited the connection between identity and high school, saying it goes "deep into the make up of who we are."

"We are often asked 'Where you grad from?' and the answer is always the name of our high school," he wrote in testimony opposing the change. "It is not about who the school is named after, but

the 'branding' of the school's culture that is attached to that school."



Tanoa

Keeping the name also ensures history is learned from and not erased, he said.

Still efforts to change the school's name continue.

Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, a Hawaiian cultural practitioner who did not attend McKinley, said it's insulting to keep a name honoring a man who "was no friend to Hawaiians."

"It would be one thing if you were to say, get rid of the school," she said. "But to change the name is about the dignity of a people."

The importance the "Where you went grad" question has roots in Polynesian culture, which places an emphasis on knowing where someone is from, but it's also been co-opted by foreign colonizers who became Hawaii locals, she said.

"Because when you say, 'Oh, where are you from,' they cannot claim the land itself because they know that's not where their family origi-

nated," Wong-Kalu said. "But you can claim the school."

Nanette Kaiwi, a Native Hawaiian graduate of the class of 1967 said she meets weekly with some of her classmates and they discuss plans for their upcoming 55th reunion and their strong feelings against the name change.

Kaiwi said she and her classmates worry how they would answer when asked, "Where you went grad," a question Kaiwi faced numerous times at a recent family gathering. They even worry how their descendants will remember them.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US, world face economic turmoil

Whether America is in a recession or not has yet to be officially determined. But unofficially, U.S. consumers may already believe that a downturn has begun and may be accelerating after a week of consequential economic news and months of rising prices.

Thursday's announcement from the Commerce Department that the U.S. economy contracted 0.9% in the second quarter of 2022—following a 1.6% decline in the first quarter—meets a standard definition of a recession: two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

A National Bureau of Economic Research panel will eventually decide. Although that official declaration will be meaningful, what matters most is how consumers feel and behave in the face of higher prices on many goods and services.

The rate at which inflation is increasing is at four-decade high following years of stable prices. Most paychecks have not kept up with the increased cost of living, leaving many consumers—especially those with low incomes—feeling worse off.

On Wednesday, as was expected, the Federal Reserve again raised a key interest rate—this time at three-quarters of a point—to curb inflation.

The painfully necessary increase is meant to decrease economic demand and thus prices. “We need growth to slow,” Fed Chair Jerome Powell said. “We don’t want this to be bigger than it needs to be, but ultimately, if you think about the medium- to longer-term, price stability is what makes the whole economy work.”

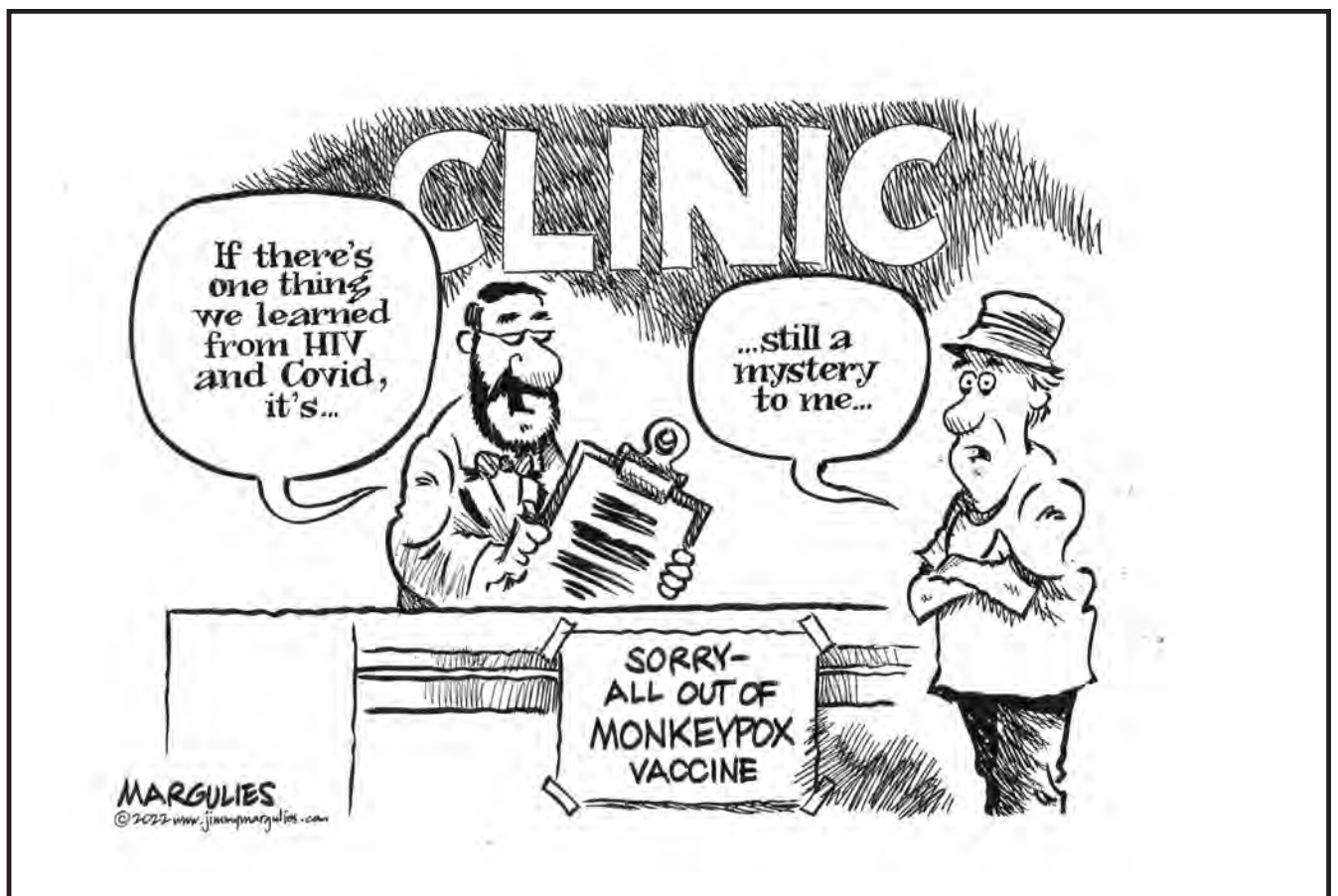
So do jobs, and in this aspect the U.S. and Minnesota, in particular, are in a better position than in previous downturns. The overall U.S. unemployment rate is a relatively low 3.6%, and Minnesota just announced its lowest unemployment rate ever, at 1.8%. Yet if the economy cools further, so could job growth.

The Fed’s previous positions of years of relatively low interest rates may have contributed to the need to raise them so quickly. But it’s important to remember that the central bank, like federal, state and local governments, was trying to respond to an anemic pandemic economy.

It’s also critical to note that the policy responses have an international context. The economy is interconnected and in fact genuinely global, and the unrelenting COVID-19 crisis and war in Ukraine, which both exacerbated the worldwide supply-chain problem, have had a hand in rising prices, too. Higher rates of inflation, slowing growth and rising interest rates are being seen in other developed economies in Europe and elsewhere, and the developing world faces a potentially more acute, even existential, food crisis due to the disruption from Russia’s invasion.

The globalization of economic headwinds led the International Monetary Fund to warn on Tuesday of a global recession. In a blog post timed with the release of the IMF’s report, titled “Gloomy and More Uncertain,” the IMF’s

See US on Next Page



The government has no place in building, operating its own broadband

Friedrich Nietzsche’s famous quote that “what doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger” is only true, at least in politics, if you learn from your mistakes. And last year was a teachable moment for Democrats.

Democratic leaders missed huge opportunities on election reform (including the all-important Electoral Count Act), climate change, police reform, the right kind of immigration reform and much else, all because their eyes were too big, packages were too ambitious and most of all because they refused to say “no” to the extremist purity tests of the party’s hard left. Build Back Better was sacrificed on that altar.

Success requires tapering untested grandiosities and selling commonsense ideas to the 70% or so of the public that reject the extremes of the hard right and the hard left.

Did Democrats learn the lesson? It’s not yet clear, but by the look of things on the one major bipartisan issue of 2021—broadband and infrastructure—the jury is out.

The infrastructure bill’s bipartisan broadband provisions gave unprecedented billions to cure the digital divide—\$42 billion for building networks in rural areas that don’t have any yet and \$14 billion to make broadband essentially free for low-income Americans who have it on their doorstep but don’t sign up. That’s huge.

But now some Democrats in the administration and in various states want to use some of those funds to actually get local governments into the business of building and operating vastly complex and expensive broadband networks themselves. This is like stealing defeat from the jaws of victory.

To be sure, everyone favors more broadband competition. More than 95% of Americans already have four or more choices for fixed or wireless broadband, and the percentage of Americans with multiple choice for ultrafast wired service has nearly tripled in the past five years. Policymakers should do all they can to encourage more.

But the idea that local governments should enter this marketplace with a taxpayer-subsidized network does not represent real competition, not even remotely. Think about it this way.

If there are three ice cream shops in a city, each shop will need to compete against the others by offering the best quality and service and the widest choice of flavors. But if City Hall opens an ice cream shop underwritten by taxpayer subsidies, it then doesn’t have the same incentives to make its best possible product and offer the widest choice and best service. Sure, it can still gain some customers with cut-rate prices, but that’s not really competition in any meaningful sense. You’ve effectively dumbbed down competition and even deterred future competition—not a lot of new competitors will want to come into a market where the government subsidizes one player.

By **LINDSAY LEWIS**
Chicago Tribune*Lindsay Mark Lewis is executive director of the Progressive Policy Institute, a nonprofit think tank.*

The same is true in broadband. Broadband networks are incredibly expensive and complicated to build. Then, they are incredibly expensive and labor-intensive to manage, upgrade and keep secure from growing cybersecurity threats. Broadband companies have to offer the best possible product in order to hold onto customers. And that’s a good thing—it’s the incentive they think about every day when they walk into work.

But like a city-owned ice cream shop, a city-owned broadband network doesn’t have to play by these rules. It doesn’t have to provide its best possible product or service or continually upgrade it, because it doesn’t have the same incentives when it knows taxpayers can bail out its shortcomings. Like the ice cream shop, it can poach some customers with below-market fees paid for by taxpayers, but that’s not competition in any meaningful sense.

Further, it may actually deter competition. Will investors in a new competitive broadband service or technology really want to risk their funds in a marketplace where the government has a bottomless checkbook to undercut it, even with an inferior product? I’m not sure they would.

Long term, that means less private investment in broadband infrastructure—slamming the brakes on one of the most potent engines of American economic growth. The Progressive Policy Institute’s Investment Heroes report found that broadband providers represented three of the 10 largest capital investors in the U.S. economy last year.

On top of all this, and as if this were not enough, these undertakings fail at alarming rates. Of all the municipal fiber networks nationwide that make their financial results public, 73% bled cash over the past three years—and almost 90% are on track for insolvency.

Democrats have important broadband goals on which they need to focus and succeed—wiring rural communities and getting every willing low-income American connected as the bipartisan infrastructure bill envisions.

In this way they can show the public—and particularly swing voters where elections are won and lost—that they can govern with common sense.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If we don't stop single-issue advocacy, we risk losing democracy altogether

My friends have it wrong. I recently reached out to many of them about an effort to combat the intentional efforts by “big lie” candidates to take over nonpartisan election positions in key states where, had they been in place, the 2020 election may have gone to Donald Trump. Many of them were “too busy” or responded that they only invest in specific issues like “climate crisis” or “reproductive rights” these days.

I responded: “I doubt it will go very well for climate action if Trump wins in 2024.” Their answer: crickets. And that, in a nutshell, is why we're in trouble.

The problem isn't whether you're a Republican or a Democrat. It isn't whether you disagree with your neighbors, or share the same beliefs. The real problem at hand is that we are all doubling down with aggressive tribalism on our policy silos, or even our political party, and funneling money and time and our deepest passions to them like a hoard of fiddlers on a hill while the pillars of democracy burn. Without unity and collective compromise, we risk being outwitted by those who seek to divide us. Make no mistake: This exact strategy of fanning the flames of minor differences between protesting forces has been used by dictators and authoritarians for centuries. We cannot and must not fall to it now.

We all need to step outside of our echo chamber long enough to notice that democratic norms are under threat. And lest you think it's just Donald Trump and his Trumpians attacking the notion of the rule of law and legitimacy of democracy, we San Franciscans, engaging deeply in the redistricting process these last couple of months, saw an equally heinous political power-grab by the entrenched ultra-progressives. They behaved like Trump and his “Stop the Steal” cronies when they didn't like the outcome of representative democracy in the agreed-upon process (such as the new maps created by the redistricting task force).

We are at the point when working with the other party on comprise solutions to our nation's most enduring challenges has regularly become cause for a slew of death threats. Whether it's a secretary of state in Ohio, a U.S. senator in Maine, a House member in New Jersey or a redistricting task force member in San Francisco, good people are now afraid to work in government or become civic volunteers. This has to stop! We need to listen more, and threaten less. Each side in this battle of the extremes has taken a tiny nugget of truth and turned it into a full-blown conspiracy theory with life-or-death consequences. The real life-and-death threat is the partisan battle itself.

A new brand of politics, one that supports the rule of law and institutions that resurrect the fundamental principle of any successful democracy, is the only way to move forward. And bipartisanship is the only way to do that—even if that may be the ultra-blue compromising with the slightly less blue in a city like San Francisco. Compromise and slow change are the tenets of our government and it is through compromise that the big ideas of tomorrow are born. However, these ideas ought to be socialized and reformed into the center over time, ushered gently into broad acceptance as people see the inescapable validity of their goals and processes—like ending child labor or the right to clean water—the very shared goals we all adhere to, whether red, blue or independent.

Stop the single-issues advocacy, lobbying or direct-to-candidate funding. Funneling any money through either party is the problem, not the solution. Over the last two decades we've become lulled into believing that our party can single-handedly deliver on our wish list of policies, and inured to the fact that both parties continuously fail to deliver—not one comprehensive solution to gun safety, our immigration crisis, our strained health care system, our failure to educate our next generation effectively and efficiently, and so much more.

By **MARTHA E. CONTE**

The Fulcrum

Martha E. Conte is co-chair of No Labels for the state of California.



Give money to candidates who are actively working across the aisle to formulate legislation that has a snowball-in-hell's chance of passing. You can find and support organizations that are actively working to restore bipartisanship and sustain democracy, like No Labels, Unite America, An America United, Mainstream Democrat PAC and others.

Democracy is not a given and needs to be actively nurtured to survive and thrive. Only once our political system has returned to civility and unfettered bipartisan debate about the goals we most often commonly share, with our only real differences on how best to solve them, can we go back to our relative complacency for a short time and focus again on our pet issues. We now know that we can't afford to take our eye off of it for long without risking that autocrats, whether from the right or left, will try to sneak by and steal it from us. Engage in the change you hope to see, avoid starting sentences with “Republicans ...” or “Democrats ...” Ordinary people from either party are not monoliths and the moment they hear these accusations and demonizations, they shut down.

There are Republicans, like me, who support choice, climate and LGBTQ+ rights. And same goes for Democrats who may support gun rights or energy independence. We are out there—engage us and let's move forward together.

At last, a simple strategy for COVID booster shots

The Food and Drug Administration reportedly has a new strategy for rolling out new booster shots that should bring needed clarity to COVID vaccination in the U.S. Going forward, most Americans will get the same advice about when to get their next shots.

Currently, second boosters are available only to people who are either over the age of 50 or have compromised immunity. The agency had been considering offering boosters to people of all ages this summer.

Instead, health officials will accelerate the availability of next-generation vaccines that are tailored to the highly contagious BA.4 and BA.5 omicron variants, and offer these shots to everyone at once in September. Moderna and Pfizer are reportedly ready to meet that ambitious timeline.

This move makes sense both scientifically and practically.

Scientists have worried that the longer the FDA waited to approve a second booster for people under 50, the harder it would be to time the rollout of updated shots. If people were to get second boosters in August, they would want to wait two to three months—until October or November—to let their immune response mature before getting a new variant-specific shot. It's easier to have the new vaccine be the next shot for this group.

On a practical level, speeding up the next-generation shots also simplifies public-health advice on when people should get the new vaccines. Although media reports about details of the rollout differ, the likely scenario is that the shots will be offered to everyone 12 and over. That will make uniform what has previously been patchwork guidance for different age groups.

Unfortunately, it will remain as difficult as ever to convince people that more COVID shots are needed. While the vaccines have protected most people from serious illness, their ability to prevent infection—never the intended purpose of the shots, but certainly key to getting society fully back to normal—has grown weaker with each new variant.

All of this has led to excruciatingly slow uptake of available shots, and that has been especially worrisome for the most vulnerable groups. Hospitalization rates for people over 70, for example, are now near the peak last seen when the delta variant was circulating.

But offering updated shots to all Americans in September could help bring people on board by streamlining the process. Americans are accustomed to rolling up a sleeve for a flu shot

By **LISA JARVIS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.



each fall. Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can suggest they simply get a COVID shot at the same time. Assuming there are no more major variant surprises, this could be the beginning of putting the COVID vaccine on an annual schedule, as Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, recently suggested to me.

Of course, it's essential that Congress now invest in the fall vaccine plan. The US Department of Health and Human Services has said it signed a new contract with Moderna to buy 66 million doses of an mRNA booster against BA.4 and BA.5. That adds to the roughly 105 million doses of Pfizer's updated booster the agency previously agreed to buy.

It doesn't take a mathematician to realize that won't be enough shots for the entire US population. Yet month after month, Congress continues to ignore White House requests for additional COVID funding. HHS said it took \$10 billion from other pandemic efforts to pay for these vaccines.

What message do lawmakers send about the importance of vaccination if they can't ensure there will be enough shots to go around?

The FDA has struck upon a sensible plan. To avoid yet another tough winter with COVID, Congress should work quickly to ensure it gets the support it needs.

US

From Page 8

chief economist wrote, “The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one.”

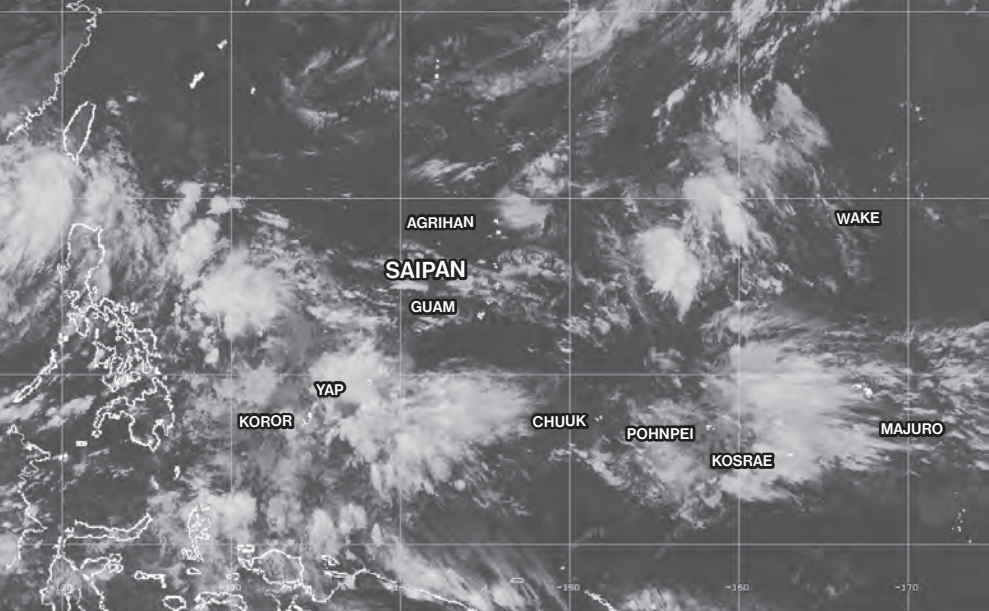
Whatever one calls it—and predictably, the Biden administration doesn't want to use the term “recession,” while Republicans do—economic conditions have worsened. Whether the Fed can produce a “soft landing” of lower inflation without more serious damage to the economy remains to be seen. But overall, the U.S. is in a better position than most major economies, Timothy Kehoe, a University of Minnesota professor of economics and adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, told an editorial writer.

“The world is in a time of unprecedented amounts of economic uncertainty with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, not as brutally here as in some other countries, and the war in Ukraine,” Kehoe said. “The United States is doing the best of any major country in the world right now.”

That's a credit to U.S. citizens and policymakers, but no one can say with certainty if that relative strength will continue.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		Partly sunny		Partly sunny	
88°	78°	86°	77°	86°	77°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:09 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Tinian and Saipan waters, with isolated showers in the Guam and Rota waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmicchc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:07 AM	11:09 PM	-
Friday	12:01 PM	11:51 PM	-
Saturday	12:58 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:37 AM	1:59 PM
Monday	-	1:30 AM	3:04 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	62° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	98° / 80°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 73°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Sunny	88° / 74°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	85° / 63°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Rome	Sunny	97° / 73°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 69°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 56°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	91° / 77°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 74°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	92° / 75°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:23 AM	Low Tide	0.84	
11:50 AM	High Tide	1.68	
6:00 PM	Low Tide	0.78	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA						SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily	1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN						1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA						2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

US ambassador to Japan warns of Chinese economic coercion

TOKYO (AP)—The United States is working with Japan and other likeminded countries to counter China's efforts to use its economic might to force political change around the world, the U.S. ambassador to Japan said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press.



Emanuel

Rahm Emanuel, who was previously mayor of Chicago and chief of staff for President Barack Obama, is pushing what he calls "com-

mercial diplomacy," the idea that the United States and Japan will be more eager to do business with each other and with similar secure and stable countries amid worries caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and Chinese economic coercion.

"From intellectual property theft to coercion to debt dependency that China creates, the idea that they could actually honestly say, 'We don't coerce,' and then you have not one, not two,

not three — many worldwide examples where they use their economic market access to force a political change in a country ... I think everybody's woken up to that," Emanuel said in the interview at his residence in the heart of downtown Tokyo.

Emanuel, who arrived in Japan in January, laid out a number of examples of Chinese coercion, including with

Japan, which saw Chinese shipments of rare earth metals blocked over a territorial dispute; South Korea, which suffered Chinese business boycotts when it installed a U.S. missile defense system; Australia; and countries in Europe and Southeast Asia.

China's growing economic importance and spending abroad have rattled those

countries, which worry that Beijing is increasing its strategic and political influence in their traditional spheres of influence.

China has become one of the biggest lenders to developing countries through its "Belt and Road Initiative" to expand trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across Asia, Africa and the

Middle East to Europe. This has prompted accusations Beijing is using debt to gain political leverage, but Chinese officials deny that.

China has been more assertive about pressing other governments to embrace Chinese-led initiatives including a trade group, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

US job openings slid to 10.7 million in June



A "help wanted" sign is seen at an Allstate insurance office in Elgin, Ill., March 19, 2022. AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airbnb posts 2Q profit of \$379 million on record bookings

Airbnb said Tuesday that it earned \$379 million in the second quarter on record bookings and rising rates, and the short-term rental giant announced a plan to spend up to \$2 billion to buy its own stock. The results showed a reversal from losses in the second quarter of both last year and 2019. Airbnb indicated that its third-quarter revenue will be better than analysts currently forecast, although the gross value of bookings in the second quarter fell short of Wall Street expectations. Airbnb has benefitted from the increase in travel and the exodus of workers from offices, which frees them to work from just about anywhere they can get internet access. Bookings in the second quarter were about one-fourth higher than last year and 2019, but their gross value of \$17.0 billion was slightly below analysts' forecast of more than \$17.1 billion, according to FactSet. Chief Financial Officer Dave Stephenson said the gross value of bookings is still rising sharply compared with 2019. (AP)

Starbucks reports record revenue on frothy US demand

Starbucks on Tuesday reported record revenue in the April-June period, as strong U.S. demand made up for COVID shutdowns in China. The Seattle-based coffee giant exceeded sales expectations despite continuing store closures and reduced hours in China due to coronavirus measures. Starbucks said its same-store sales in China—its second-largest market after the U.S.—were down 44% in its fiscal third quarter.

Starbucks said it ended the quarter with roughly 2,000 stores in 50 cities operating with COVID restrictions. But strong U.S. demand made up for that. Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, rose 9% in the U.S., where customers are spending more on customizable cold beverages and food, like lime-frosted coconut bars. Morning traffic was also picking up as more people returned to offices. Interim Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said the company isn't yet seeing any impact from inflation, despite increasing prices about 5% over the same period last year. (AP)

Stephen King testifies for government in books merger trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stephen King didn't break any legal ground on the stand Tuesday as he testified against his own publisher's efforts to merge with Penguin Random House. But he did know how to please a crowd and even get the judge to thank him for his time. "It was a real pleasure to hear your testimony," the otherwise businesslike U.S. District Judge Florence J. Pan told the author after he finished speaking as a government witness in a federal antitrust lawsuit against the merger of Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster, King's longtime publisher. The 74-year-old King had a haunting but gregarious presence, his gaunt features accented by his gray suit and gray sneakers, his walk tentative, as it has been since he was struck by a van and badly injured in 1999. But once sworn in, he was relaxed and happy to talk, and ever alert to how to tell a story,

WASHINGTON (AP)—American employers posted fewer job openings in June as the economy contends with raging inflation and rising interest rates.

Job openings fell to a still-high 10.7 million in June from 11.3 million in May, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Job openings, which never exceeded 8 million in a month before last year, had topped 11 million every month from December through May before dipping in June.

In its monthly Job Openings

and Labor Turnover Survey, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans quitting their jobs fell slightly but remained high at 4.2 million in June while layoffs fell to 1.3 million from 1.4 million in May.

The job market has been resilient so far this year, and companies have complained that it is hard to fill open positions: Employers have added an average of 457,000 a jobs a month in 2022; and unemployment is near a 50-year low. That is one reason many economists believe the econo-

my is not yet in a recession even though gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, has contracted for two quarters in a row — one rule of thumb for the onset of a downturn.

"If the economy is rolling over, the labor market had apparently not gotten the memo yet as of the end of June," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities. "A case could be made for slight moderation from an egregiously overheated state, but that is about as far

as I would go in assessing labor market conditions."

The Labor Department's jobs report for July, out Friday, is expected to show that employers tacked on another 250,000 jobs last month, which would be a healthy number in normal times but would be the lowest since December 2020, when the global economy was being ravaged by the pandemic. Economists also expect that unemployment stayed at 3.6% for the fifth straight month, according to a survey by the data firm FactSet.

Number of uninsured Americans drops to record low

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people living in America without health insurance coverage hit an all-time low of 8 percent this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Tuesday.

"Every American has the right to the peace of mind that comes with access to affordable, quality health care," President Joe Biden said in a statement Tuesday about the record-low rate of uninsured

Americans.

The findings come days after Democrats hammered out a 725-page climate, health care and tax deal that would extend generous federal subsidies for people who buy private health insurance that are credited with driving down the uninsured rates. Democrats have proposed spending \$64 billion to extend those price breaks for three more years.

The drop in uninsured Americans began last year,

when Congress and Biden signed off on a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill that lowered premiums and out-of-pocket costs for new or returning customers purchasing plans through the Affordable Care Act's private health insurance markets.

The uninsured rate fell to just under 9 percent last year with the improved subsidies. The Biden administration also began to step up advertising and increased the num-

ber of counselors who helped sign up people for plans during the open enrollment season last year.

Prior to last year, the uninsured rate had consistently remained in the double digits for decades. The number of uninsured Americans began dropping after the ACA, which expanded Medicaid and offers health insurance to people who lack job-based coverage through a mix of subsidized private plans, was enacted in 2010.

Nation

Death toll in Northern California wildfire zone rises to 4

KLAMATH RIVER, Calif. (AP)—Two more bodies were found within the burn zone of a huge Northern California wildfire, raising the death toll to four in the state's largest blaze of the year, authorities said Tuesday.

Search teams discovered the additional bodies Monday at separate residences along State Route 96, one of the only roads in and out of the remote region near the state line with Oregon, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

"This brings the confirmed fatality number to four," the sheriff's statement said. "At this time there are no unaccounted for persons." Other details were not immediately disclosed.

Sheriff's officials said two bodies were also found Sunday inside a charred vehicle in the driveway of a home near the tiny unincorporated community of Klamath River, which was largely destroyed in the McKinney Fire.

The fire jumped the Klamath River over the weekend and raged through the tiny community of about 200, destroying many of the homes



Sheriff's deputies leave a home where a McKinney Fire victim was found on Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, in Klamath National Forest, Calif. AP

along with the post office, community hall and other scattered businesses.

"When that fire came over that ridgeline, it had 100-foot flames for about 5 miles and the wind was blowing. It was

coming down like a solid blowtorch. There was nothing to stop it," said Roger Derry, 80, whose home was among a handful that survived.

"It's very sad. It's very disheartening," said his son,

whose name is spelled Rodger Derry. "Some of our oldest homes, 100-year-old homes, are gone. It's a small community. Good people, good folks, for the most part, live here and in time will rebuild. But it's

going to take some time now."

More than 100 homes, sheds and other buildings have burned in the McKinney Fire since it erupted last Friday. The blaze remained out of

control, authorities said.

Thunderstorms dumped some much-needed rain on Monday and into Tuesday even as temperatures hit the 90s Fahrenheit (above 32.2 Celsius) and the brush, fields and forest remained generally bone-dry.

But the storms also meant a threat of lightning strikes that already sparked several small blazes and the National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch through late Tuesday night because of concerns that heavy rain could send rocks, mud and water pouring down the fire-scorched slopes.

In addition, the moisture and storms were "creating an unstable atmosphere which may make firefighting conditions much more hazardous with wind speeds potentially reaching 50 mph (80 kph) during those storms," fire officials said.

However, the fire didn't grow on Tuesday, and fire officials said crews were able to use bulldozers to carve fire-breaks along a ridge to protect homes and buildings in the county seat of Yreka.

Kansas voters resoundingly protect their access to abortion

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—Kansas voters on Tuesday sent a resounding message about their desire to protect abortion rights, rejecting a ballot measure in a conservative state with deep ties to the anti-abortion movement that would have allowed the Republican-controlled Legislature to tighten restrictions or ban the procedure outright.

It was the first test of voter sentiment after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June that overturned the constitutional right to abortion, providing an unexpected re-

sult with potential implications for the coming midterm elections.

While it was just one state, the heavy turnout for an August primary that typically favors Republicans was a major victory for abortion rights advocates. With most of the vote counted, they were prevailing by roughly 20 percentage points, with the turnout approaching what's typical for a fall election for governor.

The vote also provided a dash of hope for Democrats nationwide grasping for a game-changer during an elec-

tion year otherwise filled with dark omens for their prospects in November.

"This vote makes clear what we know: the majority of Americans agree that women should have access to abortion and should have the right to make their own health care decisions," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

After calling on Congress to "restore the protections of Roe" in federal law, Biden added, "And, the American people must continue to use their voices to protect the right to women's health care, in-

cluding abortion."

The Kansas vote also provided a warning to Republicans who had celebrated the Supreme Court ruling and were moving swiftly with abortion bans or near-bans in nearly half the states.

"Kansans bluntly rejected anti-abortion politicians' attempts at creating a reproductive police state," said Kimberly Inez McGuire, executive director of Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity. "Today's vote was a powerful rebuke and a promise of the mounting resistance."

Sandy Hook parents: Alex Jones claims created 'living hell'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Fighting back tears and finally given the chance to confront conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, the parents of a 6-year-old killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting described being put through a "living hell" of death threats, harassment and ongoing trauma over the last decade caused by Jones using his media platforms to push claims that it was all a hoax.

The parents led a day of charged testimony that included the judge scolding the bombastic Jones for not being truthful with some of what he

said under oath.

Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, whose son Jesse was killed at Sandy Hook, took the witness stand Tuesday on the final day of testimony in the two-week defamation damages trial against Jones and his media company Free Speech Systems. They are seeking at least \$150 million in damages.

In a gripping exchange, Lewis spoke directly to Jones, who was sitting about 10 feet away. Earlier that day, Jones was on his broadcast program telling his audience that Heslin is "slow" and being manipulated by bad people.

"I am a mother first and foremost and I know you are a father. My son existed," Lewis said to Jones. "I am not deep state... I know you know that... And yet you're going to leave this courthouse and say it again on your show."

At one point, Lewis asked Jones: "Do you think I'm an actor?"

"No, I don't think you're an actor," Jones responded before the judge admonished him to be quiet until called to testify.

Lewis continued trying to impress on Jones that the Sandy Hook shooting and trauma inflicted in the decade since

then were real.

"It seems so incredible to me that we have to do this — that we have to implore you, to punish you — to get you to stop lying," Lewis said. "I am so glad this day is here. I'm actually relieved. And grateful... that I got to say all this to you."

Jones visibly shook his head several times while Scarlett Lewis was addressing him.

Heslin and Lewis are among several Sandy Hook families who have filed several lawsuits alleging that Sandy Hook hoax claims pushed by Jones have led to years of abuse by Jones and his followers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Senate approves bill to aid vets exposed to toxic burn pits

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bill enhancing health care and disability benefits for millions of veterans exposed to toxic burn pits won final approval in the Senate on Tuesday, ending a brief stalemate over the measure that had infuriated advocates and inspired some to camp outside the Capitol. The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 86-11. It now goes to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law. Biden described the legislation as the biggest expansion of benefits for service-connected health issues in 30 years and the largest single bill ever to address exposure to burn pits. "I look forward to signing this bill, so that veterans and their families and caregivers impacted by toxic exposures finally get the benefits and comprehensive health care they earned and deserve," Biden said. The Senate had overwhelmingly approved the legislation back in June, but a do-over was required to make a technical fix. That process derailed when Republicans made a late attempt to change another aspect of the bill last week and blocked it from advancing.

Illinois parade attack suspect expected back in court

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP)—The man accused of opening fire at an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago is due back in court Wednesday, a week after prosecutors announced he faces 117 felony counts in the attack that killed seven people and wounded dozens more. Robert E. Crimo III is scheduled to appear for an arraignment Wednesday in Lake County's circuit court to enter a formal plea to the charges—21 counts of first-degree murder, 48 counts of attempted murder and 48 counts of aggravated battery representing those killed and wounded during the parade on July 4 in Highland Park. Lake County prosecutors in late July announced that a grand jury had indicted Crimo on the charges. They had previously filed seven murder charges against the 21-year-old in the days following the shooting. The multiple first-degree murder charges allege Crimo intended to kill, caused death or great bodily harm and took action with a strong probability of causing death or great bodily harm on the seven people who died.

Asia

‘US will not abandon Taiwan’



In this photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center left, and Taiwanese President President Tsai Ing-wen arrive for a meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, meeting leaders in Taiwan despite warnings from China, said Wednesday that she and other members of Congress in a visiting delegation are showing they will not abandon their commitment to the self-governing island.

“Today the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy,” she said in a short speech during a meeting with Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen. “America’s determination to preserve democracy, here in Taiwan and around the world, remains ironclad.”

China, which claims Taiwan as its territory and opposes any engagement by Taiwanese officials with foreign governments, announced

multiple military exercises around the island and issued a series of harsh statements after the delegation touched down Tuesday night in the Taiwanese capital Taipei.

Taiwan decried the planned actions.

“Such an act equals to sealing off Taiwan by air and sea ... and severely violates our country’s territorial sovereignty,” said Captain Jian-chang Yu at the National Defense Ministry’s media briefing Wednesday morning.

Pelosi’s trip has heightened U.S.-China tensions more than visits by other members of Congress because of her high-level position as leader of the House of Representatives. She is the first speaker of the house to come to Tai-

wan in 25 years, since Newt Gingrich in 1997.

Tsai, thanking Pelosi for her decades of support for Taiwan, presented the speaker with a civilian honor, the Order of the Propitious Clouds.

“Facing deliberately heightened military threats, Taiwan will not back down,” Tsai said. “We will firmly uphold our nation’s sovereignty and continue to hold the line of defense for democracy.”

Tsai later said in a news conference, “Military exercises are unnecessary responses.”

Shortly after Pelosi landed, China announced live-fire drills that reportedly started Tuesday night, as well as a four-day exercise beginning Thursday in waters on all sides of the island.

US and Indonesia hold joint military drills

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The United States and Indonesian militaries began annual joint combat exercises Wednesday on Indonesia’s Sumatra island, joined for the first time by participants from other partner nations, signaling stronger ties amid growing maritime activity by China in the Indo-Pacific region.

More than 5,000 soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore were participating in this year’s exercises, making them the largest since the drills were established in 2009. The exercises are designed to strengthen interoperability, capability, trust and cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta said in a statement.

“It’s a symbol of the U.S.-Indonesia bond and the grow-

ing relationship between land forces in this consequential region,” Gen. Charles Flynn, Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, said in the statement. “Because land forces are the glue that binds the region’s security architecture together.”

Flynn and Indonesia’s Military Chief Gen. Andika Perkasa opened the joint drills with a ceremony on Wednesday morning in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra province. The exercises will last until Aug. 14, encompassing army, navy, air force and marine drills.

The planned two-week drills opened after China’s Defense Ministry said Tuesday night it would conduct a series of targeted military operations to “safeguard national sovereignty” in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to self-governed Taiwan,

which China claims as part of its territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

China has also been increasingly assertive over its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea.

U.S. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the number of intercepts by Chinese aircraft and ships in the Pacific region with U.S. and other partner forces has increased significantly over the past five years, and the number of unsafe interactions has risen by similar proportions.

“The message is the Chinese military, in the air and at sea, have become significantly more and noticeably more aggressive in this particular region,” Milley said last month during a trip to the Indo-Pacific that included a stop in Indonesia.

World

Russia brands Ukrainian steel plant defenders as ‘terrorists’

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia’s Supreme Court declared Ukraine’s Azov Regiment a terrorist organization Tuesday, a move that could lead to terror charges against some of the captured fighters who made their last stand inside Mariupol’s shattered steel plant.

Russia and its separatist allies are holding an estimated 1,000 Azov soldiers prisoner, many of them since their surrender at the steelworks in mid-May. Russian authorities have opened criminal cases against them, accusing

them of killing civilians. The addition of terrorism charges could mean fewer rights and longer prison sentences.

A terrorist organization leader could receive 15 to 20 years, and group members could get five to 10, according to Russian state media.

In testimony journalists were allowed to view, witnesses appearing before the Supreme Court supported the proposed terrorism designation, but most of the proceedings were held behind closed

doors, so it was not known if any opponents testified.

“I can testify myself that Ukrainian snipers—Azov snipers—really shot civilians trying to escape the city” of Mariupol, Marina Akhmedova of the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights testified. “I saw bodies lying on roads with my own eyes. There were many of them, and they were lying probably 10 meters apart from one another. There were no shell craters beside them.”

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Jovita Kisa Masiwemai



Born on January 15, 1950 on Saipan.
Called to her eternal rest on July 25, 2022 at the age of 72.

- She now joins her:*
- Parents:** †Enrique Ninaisen Kisa
†Luisa Babauta Kisa
- Parents-in-Law:** †William Yagimai
†Rosa Legasiugyaro
- Daughter:** †Norma Masiwemai Marlemai
- Siblings:** †Lourdes Babauta Kisa
†Felix Babauta Kisa
†Digna Babauta Kisa
†Juan Babauta Kisa
†Manuel Babauta Kisa
†Hilaria Kisa Santos

Nephew: †Dorotheo Anthony Kisa
She will be dearly missed by her:
Husband: **John J. Masiwemai**

- Children: Soledad Kisa Andrew**
Spouse: Jason Isauro Andrew
Children: Harley Edeluchel, Jr.
Marvin Marcello
Jacether Andrew
Mason Andrew
Makaio Andrew
- Richard Kisa Masiwemai**
Spouse: Charlene Sakisat Masiwemai
Children: Tovian Sakisat Masiwemai
Astrid Sakisat Masiwemai
John Richard Sakisat Masiwemai
- Edward Kisa Masiwemai**
Spouse: Charlene Bitlaol Masiwemai
Children: Eyvri Bitlaol Masiwemai
Elita Bitlaol Masiwemai
Richard Bitlaol Masiwemai

- Brothers & Sisters:**
The family of †Manuel Babauta Kisa & Antonia I. Kisa
The family of †Hilaria Kisa Santos & †Nicolas B. Santos
Felix Babauta Kisa & Trinidad C. Kisa & Family
Doroteo Babauta Kisa & Diane S. Kisa & Family
Lourdes Kisa & Gilbert I. Macaranas
Maria Kisa & Herman A. Torres & Family

Funeral Services at
St. Jude Parish, August 5th 2022
8:00am - 9:30am Rosary and Viewing
10:00am - Mass
11:30am - Cremation

- John Kisa Masiwemai, Jr.**
Spouse: Christina Grace Masiwemai
- Clarence Kisa Masiwemai**
Spouse: Amber Sherai Masiwemai
Children: Gabriel Alvie Masiwemai
Isaac Kisa Masiwemai
- Michael Kisa Masiwemai**
Spouse: Darcy Mae Perez Masiwemai
Children: Aiden Michael Perez Masiwemai
- Michelle Kisa Masiwemai**
Partner: Rodney Wince
Children: Mahle Rosie Wince
†Norma Masiwemai Marlemai
Spouse: Clinton Marlemai
- Jasmine Kisa Masiwemai**
Vanelle Kisa Masiwemai

Environment

MIAMI (AP)—It's one of the seafood industry's most gruesome hunts.

Every year, the fins of as many as 73 million sharks are sliced from the backs of the majestic sea predators, their bleeding bodies sometimes dumped back into the ocean where they are left to suffocate or die of blood loss.

But while the barbaric practice is driven by China, where shark fin soup is a symbol of status for the rich and powerful, America's seafood industry isn't immune from the trade.

A spate of recent criminal indictments highlights how U.S. companies, taking advantage of a patchwork of federal and state laws, are supplying a market for fins that activists say is as reprehensible as the now-illegal trade in elephant ivory once was.

A complaint quietly filed last month in Miami federal court accused an exporter based in the Florida Keys, Elite Sky International, of falsely labeling some 5,666 pounds of China-bound shark fins as live Florida spiny lobsters. Another company, south Florida-based Aifa Seafood, is also under criminal investigation for similar violations, according to two people on the condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing probe. The company is managed by a Chinese-American woman who in 2016 pleaded guilty to shipping more than a half-ton of live Florida lobsters to her native China without a license.

The heightened scrutiny from law enforcement comes as Congress debates a federal ban on shark fins—making it illegal to import or export even foreign-caught fins. Every year, American wildlife inspectors seize thousands of shark fins while in transit to Asia for failing to declare the shipments.

■ ■ ■

While not all sharks are killed just for their fins, none of the other shark parts harvested in the U.S. and elsewhere—such as its meat, jaws or skin—can compete with fins in terms of value. Depending on the type of shark, a single pound of fins can fetch hundreds of dollars, making it one of the priciest seafood products by weight anywhere.

"If you're going out of business because you can no longer sell fins, then what are you actually fishing for?" said Whitney Webber, a campaign director at Washington-based Oceana, which supports the ban.

Since 2000, federal law has made it illegal to cut the fins off sharks and discard their bodies back into the ocean. However, individual states have wide leeway to decide whether or not businesses can harvest fins from dead sharks at a dock, or import them from overseas.



Feds target US companies caught in lucrative shark fin trade

The legislation working its way through Congress would impose a near-total ban on trade in fins, similar to action taken by Canada in 2019. The legislation, introduced in 2017 by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, has majority support in both the House and Senate.

Among those opposing the proposed ban is Elite, which has hired lobbyists to urge

decline in shark species since the 1970s. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, a Switzerland-based group that tracks wildlife populations, estimates that over a third of the world's 500-plus shark species are threatened with extinction.

Contrary to industry complaints about excessive regulations, the U.S. is hardly a model of sustainable shark

but not fins—worth over \$11 million in 2020.

Webber said rather than safeguard a small shark fishing industry, the U.S. should blaze the trail to protect the slow-growing, long-living fish.

"We can't ask other countries to clean up their act if we're not doing it well ourselves," said Webber.

She said the current laws

investigation, called Operation Apex, targeting a dozen individuals who also allegedly profited from drug trafficking. Prosecutors allege Harrison's Florida-based Phoenix Fisheries was a "shell company" for individuals based in California, where possession of fins has been illegal since 2011.

As part of the bust, the Feds found documents about some

Every year, the fins of as many as 73 million sharks are sliced from the backs of the majestic sea predators, their bleeding bodies sometimes dumped back into the ocean where they are left to suffocate or die of blood loss.

Congress to vote against the bill, lobbying records show.

It's not known where Elite obtained its fins. But in the criminal complaint, the company was also accused of sourcing lobster from Nicaragua and Belize that it falsely stated was caught in Florida. The company, affiliated with a Chinese-American seafood exporter based in New York City, was charged with violating the Lacey Act, a century-old statute that makes it a crime to submit false paperwork for any wildlife shipped overseas.

An attorney for Elite wouldn't comment nor did two representatives of Aifa when reached by phone.

Overfishing has led to a 71%

management, said Webber. She pointed to a recent finding by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that less than 23% of the 66 shark stocks in U.S. waters are safe from overfishing. The status of more than half of shark stocks isn't even known.

The situation in Europe is even worse: a new report from Greenpeace, called "Hooked on Sharks," revealed what it said is evidence of the deliberate targeting of juvenile blue sharks by fishing fleets from Spain and Portugal. The report found that the U.S. is the world's fourth-largest shark exporter behind Spain, China and Portugal, with exports of 3.2 million kilograms of meat—

aren't enough of a deterrent in an industry where bad actors drawn by the promise of huge profits are a recurrent problem.

Case in point: Mark Harrison, a Florida fisherman who in 2009 pleaded guilty to three criminal counts tied to his export of shark fins, some of them protected species. He was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and was banned from having anything to do with the shark fin trade for five years.

But federal prosecutors allege that he reconnected to associates of his former co-conspirators in 2013 in violation of the terms of his probation. He was arrested in 2020 on mail and wire fraud conspiracy charges as part of a five-year

6 tons of shark fin exports and seized 18 totoaba fish bladders, a delicacy in Asia taken from an endangered species. They also seized 18,000 marijuana plants, multiple firearms and \$1 million in diamonds—pointing to a criminal enterprise that transcended illegal seafood and stretched deep into the Mexican and Chinese mafia underworlds.

"This operation is about much more than disrupting the despicable practice of hacking the fins off sharks and leaving them to drown in the sea to create a bowl of soup," Bobby Christine, then U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, said at the time.

An attorney for Harrison de-

AP
Confiscated shark fins are shown during a news conference, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Doral, Fla. A spate of recent criminal indictments highlights how U.S. companies, taking advantage of a patchwork of federal and state laws, are supplying a market for fins that activists say is as reprehensible as the now-illegal trade in elephant ivory once was.

clined to comment on the case, which has yet to go to trial. But unlike his co-defendants, Harrison isn't implicated in any drug-related or weapons offenses. Supporters say he has complied with all laws and is being unfairly targeted by bureaucrats overlooking the key role he played in the 1980s, when sharks were even more threatened, developing the U.S. shark fishery.

"They appear to be using the current widespread empathy toward sharks for publicity and career advancement in what would otherwise be a very routine matter," reads a website run by supporters seeking to raise \$75,000 for a "Shark Defense Fund" to help Harrison fight the charges.

"In the process, they are seeking to tarnish Mark's reputation and deal a blow to the American shark fishery," according to the website, which was taken down after the AP started making inquiries.

Demian Chapman, who heads shark research at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida, said that the push to ban commercial fishing of sharks could backfire.

"If you subtract the U.S. from the fin trade entirely, it won't do anything to directly affect international demand and it's likely that other countries, with far less regulation of their fisheries, will fill the void," said Chapman.

He said the bill introduced by Sen. Cory Booker, a Democrat of New Jersey, appears to be driven by "shark fans"—not "shark fins"—and those who want to see the fish species afforded the same very high level of protection afforded to marine mammals and sea turtles. He said few in the U.S. are involved in the cruel, wasteful practice of shark finning and that the U.S.' role as a transit hub for fins can be remedied without punishing American fishers.

"There's a disconnect between perceptions and reality," said Chapman. "In the 25 years I've been studying sharks, they've gone from demon fish to a group of species that many people want to protect. This is great but we have to support science-based management measures that address the real problems."

Life & Style

S. Korean garlic video ad roasted over purported obscenity

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A rural South Korean town is getting roasted over its video ad on garlic that some farmers say stinks of obscenity and has even sexually objectified the agricultural product.

The controversy surrounds a 30-second video that had been posted on a YouTube channel for Hongseong County, a small central-west South Korean town of about 100,000 people known for its local “Hongsan” garlic, for about two years.

The video shows a woman touching the thigh of a man named “Hongsan” with a full garlic head mask and saying words like “very thick” and “hard” to apparently describe the quality of the local garlic. It’s also a parody of a famous scene from a 2004 hit Korean movie titled “Once Upon a Time in High School.”

The spicy ad, which reportedly generated about 190,000 views, had been largely kept underground, but began to take root in the larger public when it was aired on electronic billboards at a Seoul express bus terminal and a downtown street in the central city of



Bulbs of garlic are displayed at a shop in a traditional market in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

Daejeon last month ahead of the garlic’s release.

One farmer who saw the video notified some farmers’ groups, while South Korean media also began reporting about it, leaving a bad taste in people’s mouths.

“We can’t repress our astonishment,” said a joint

statement issued by the local branches of two major farmers’ organizations—the Korean Peasants League and the Korean Women Peasants Association. “The video offended the people who watched it and dealt a big blow to the image of the agricultural product that farmers have labori-

ously grown.”

Calling the video “suggestive” and “inappropriate,” the statement said it “sexually objectified” garlic.

The farmers’ groups asked Hongseong to apologize, punish those responsible for the video production and formulate steps on how to prevent similar incidents. Shin Ji Youn, an official at the Korean Women Peasants Association, said the farmers’ groups asked Hongseong to respond to their requests by Aug. 10.

Hongseong officials said Wednesday they’ve withdrawn the video from their YouTube channel and had stopped airing it on the billboards last week. The county hasn’t issued any official statement on the issue, and officials said they are dis-

cussing how to respond to the farmers’ requests.

County officials said they formally changed the name of their local garlic to “Hongseong” after their county name in January.

Many South Koreans believe garlic, one of the essential ingredients in Korean cuisine, boost stamina. Some think it can improve men’s sexual functions as well.

During the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, the country’s women’s curling team earned the nickname of “Garlic Girls”—four of the team’s five members came from another rural town known for its own famed garlic—as they had a fairy-tale run to win the silver medal.

Producer Janet Yang elected president of film academy

NEW YORK (AP)—Producer Janet Yang has been elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the group’s board of governors announced Tuesday, making her the first Asian American to lead the film academy.

Yang, the 66-year-old producer of “The Joy Luck Club” and “The People vs. Larry Flynt,” becomes the fourth woman to lead the organization behind the Oscars. Elected by the academy’s 54-member board, Yang succeeds outgoing president David Rubin, the veteran casting director, who is stepping down after three years due to term limits.

Along with academy chief executive Bill Kramer, the former Academy Museum director who was named to the post in June, Yang will be tasked with shepherding the academy

through continued evolution in the film industry and with stabilizing the Academy Awards, which in recent years have been beset by scandal and declining ratings.

The Queens-born Yang, a daughter of Chinese immigrants, has long been a significant figure in Hollywood’s Asian American community. She has served on the academy’s board of governors since 2019 as one of three governors-at-large who were added following the #OscarsSoWhite scandal to help boost inclusion in the film academy.

Yang, an executive producer of the 2020 Oscar-nominated animated film “Over the Moon,” is just the second



Yang

person of color to be the academy’s president, following Cheryl Boone Isaacs. She also co-chairs the academy’s Asian Affinity Group.

“Janet is a tremendously dedicated and strategic leader who has an incredible record

of service at the academy,” Kramer said in a statement. “She has been instrumental in launching and elevating several academy initiatives on membership recruitment, governance, and equity, diversity, and inclusion.”

After several years of declining ratings, March’s Oscar broadcast drew a larger audience than 2021’s show, but it is 16.6 million viewers was still the second-smallest on record.

Poets academy gives \$50,000 grants to local, state laureates

NEW YORK (AP)—State and local poets laureate from Alabama to Hawaii will each receive \$50,000 grants from the Academy of American Poets, awards given for “positive contributions to their communities.”

The academy announced Tuesday that it will distribute \$1.1 million to 22 laureates through its Poets Laureate Fellowship program. Since 2019, a total of \$4.35 million has been given to 81 poets. The money is used for poetry

programs, as submitted to the Academy of American Poets.

“Poets laureate at state and local levels promote the art of poetry and the position is an important way to recognize the place and possibilities that poets and poetry have in civic life, including in helping communities address issues of importance,” the academy’s statement reads in part.

Recipients include Emanuele Outspoken Bean of Houston, Nebraska’s state laureate Matt Mason and Kealoha

Wong of Hawaii. Other Laureate Fellows include Ashley M. Jones of Alabama, Lynne Thompson of Los Angeles and Gwen Nell Westerman of Minnesota.

On Tuesday, the Academy of American Poets also announced that it would give a total of \$72,200 to eight local non-profit organizations that support the Fellows’ proposed projects.

The Poets Laureate Fellowship program was established in partnership with the Mellon Foundation.

Elderly mom struggles to adjust to senior living

DEAR ABBY: My elderly mother spent her entire adult life spending her men’s money, and now she has morphed into an entitled, self-absorbed and vapid woman. She blew through her inheritance years ago with no regard for future needs. I have now moved her into senior housing near me. She wants to make friends, but the problem is that she thinks she’s better than everyone. She criticizes people’s dress and perceived social status. Although she looks like a frail old lady, she’s in denial. She also has bouts of crying and irrational concerns and demands.

Abby, my mother has a roof over her head she can afford, food, access to health care and family nearby. She’s just used to the constant go-go-go of her former country club life (which she never paid for). I’m recently retired, and her manipulations and the effect she could have on my marriage have me stressed-out. Please advise.

STUCK IN THE MUCK

DEAR STUCK: You are a caring, if frustrated, son. You mentioned that your mother has spent her entire adult life indulging herself and living the “country club life.” Change at any age can be difficult, but as people age, they can become less resilient, which is more of a challenge. I

can understand why your mother might sometimes shed tears over her changed status and even be in denial about it. You didn’t mention how much freedom she has now, but she may have too much idle time on her hands. If she can’t find things in common with her neighbors, perhaps she could make friends volunteering for some of the charities or activities in the community. You would be doing her a favor to suggest it. However, if her crying spells increase, she might benefit from being screened for depression by a medical professional.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a mostly online relationship with a man for years. He is a musician, and we met after one of his shows. We live a thousand miles apart and, since COVID shut the world down, we have seen each other only twice. We love each other very much and have developed our relationship via texting constantly. My problem is I’m not a wealthy woman, but I have been sending him more than \$1,000 a month all this time so he can post his music on various websites. I’m not entirely comfortable with this. I have a strong aversion to being used, which is what it sometimes feels like. What do you think I should do?

OUT OF TUNE IN DELAWARE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR OUT OF TUNE: Listen to your intuition. Tell the musician you love him very much, but you will have to stop sending him money because you can no longer afford it. It happens to be the truth. How he behaves in the months that follow your announcement will show if he is on the level or if you have been used.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



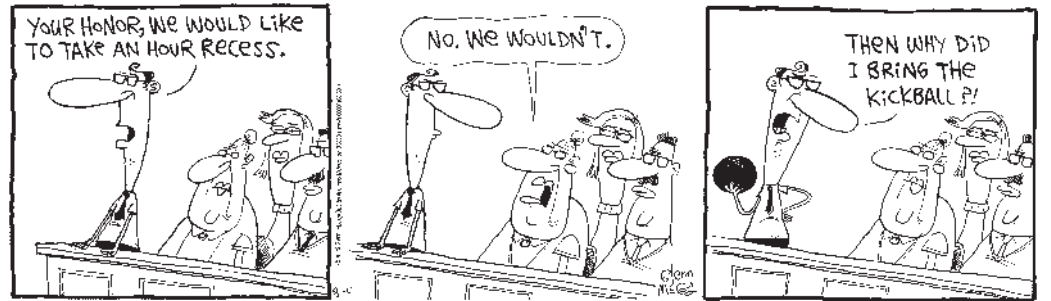
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nuisance
5 Emmy winner Alan
9 Blond shade
12 Actor Epps
13 — do-well
14 Female rabbit
15 Biscuit type
17 Poetic tribute
18 Big bargains
19 Himalayan land
21 Baseball's Cobb
22 Meager
24 Boxing arbiters
27 Hasten
28 Flintstones' pet
31 Capote nickname
32 Very long time
33 Itinerary word
34 Long tale

DOWN

36 Boring routine
37 Superman's alias
38 Alphabetized list
40 Yours truly
41 Lauder of cosmetics
43 Tyke
47 Marseilles monarch
48 Relating to the intellect
51 Calendar abbr.
52 Sandwich treat
53 Exploits
54 Away from WSW

11 Cad
16 Devious
20 Conclusion
22 Crazy Horse, for one
23 Penny
24 ACLU concerns
25 Time line
26 Escapee
27 Roll call
29 French diarist
30 Feedback
35 Hydrocarbon suffix
37 Didn't lag
39 Shill
40 French pronoun
41 Sea eagle
42 Any time now
43 L-Q bridge
44 Tower city
45 Always
46 Try out
49 Raw rock
50 Solidify

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	B	B	A	C	P	A	U	F	O	S	
L	E	A	D	H	I	S	N	U	B	S	
F	A	C	E	M	A	S	K	F	L	I	T
A	N	K	L	E	T	U	B	O	L	T	S
E	L	F	T	A	M	P	A	L	M		
M	I	R	C	U	R	N	S	O	M	E	
S	P	E	C	I	S	S	N	N	E		
E	T	A	L	A	I	M					
N	E	M	A	D	E	G	R	E	A	S	E
E	L	E	V	F	L	A	S	H	M	O	B
A	I	T	A	R	T	A	R	A			
L	A	L	A	S	B	A	A	T	T	Y	

Yesterday's answer 8-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cole Sprouse, 30; Dylan Sprouse, 30; Meghan Markle, 41; Barack Obama, 61.

Happy Birthday: Take on more. Be diverse and receptive to new concepts and ideas. Learn all you can to help bring about positive change. Consider what makes you happy and incorporate what you discover into your everyday routine. Take responsibility for your life, joy and achieving what makes you feel good about who you are and the difference you make. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 29, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful how you handle others. You'll give someone the wrong impression if you are emotional or act out of character. Sit tight, listen and respond mindfully to avoid interference that can set you back. Don't share personal information. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep the momentum flowing; you'll find it challenging to get things going again if you stop. Let passion, emotion and desire energize you to set high standards and expectations. Strive for perfection; you'll like what transpires. Romance is on the rise. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Sign up for something that reveals the facts before getting involved in something for the wrong reason. Don't trust others with your interests or future. Look for opportunities tailor-made to handle your needs. Don't deviate from what's important to you. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Reflect and collect your thoughts before acting. An impulsive move will backfire and lead to

an unwanted argument with someone you need on your side. Avoid making assumptions or exaggerating. Bide your time and pay attention to detail. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let someone stand between you and your dream. Don't get angry; carry on. If you stop to argue, you'll lose valuable time and energy. Learn as you go, and you'll discover something you enjoy doing that's prosperous. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your emotions won't lead you astray. Get to the bottom of situations involving a peer, relative or loved one. Set high standards, but don't expect others to share your values or concerns. An innovative idea will capture the right audience. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look to those who motivate and inspire you. An added push will help you realize how much of a difference you can make if you give your all. Refuse to let personal matters stand between you and what you want. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stabilize your situation by taking care of business. Leave nothing to chance or unfinished. Avoid outside pressure by doing your best to keep up and on top of your responsibilities. A self-improvement project will bring good results. Romance is featured. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid impulse spending. Don't invest in something unfamiliar to you. Do your research, and keep your emotions out of money matters. A change at home will help you bring in more cash instead of letting it slip through your fingers. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Mix things up a bit, and keep everyone guessing. Being too forward regarding your likes and dislikes will give someone the upper hand. Avoid getting involved in ventures that depend on shared expenses and profits. Walk away from tense situations. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Evaluate your situation, then adjust your plans to ensure you aren't taken advantage of by someone you least expect. Share only what's necessary. A novel approach to work will separate you from the competition. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change in your financial situation looks promising. Invest in yourself and solid plans that help you build equity over time. Being reasonable regarding personal health and emotional well-being will improve your attitude and your chance to get ahead. *****

Birthday Baby: You are intense, passionate and imaginative. You are disciplined and thoughtful.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9				2				
		3		6		7				
1	7		5		2		3	6		
		6				5				
	2						1			
		4				9				
9	6		8		3		5	4		
		1		2		8				
		5				6				

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	3	4	8	9	5	2	1	7
2	7	8	1	3	4	5	9	6
5	1	9	7	6	2	3	4	8
8	4	7	6	1	3	9	5	2
3	5	2	9	4	7	6	8	1
1	9	6	2	5	8	7	3	4
9	8	5	4	2	6	1	7	3
7	6	3	5	8	1	4	2	9
4	2	1	3	7	9	8	6	5

Difficulty Level: ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WIND WARNINGS

Solution: 8 letters

C H D N R E T N I W O N S I E
N L E D N I W E A T H E R N T
O W E A S T A T E B E R V S H
S V P A T P E E L R A I A U U
A U S R R R R I T I R C L L N
E O P A C E Z I N O E L E A D
S F C O A Z M O N G R E O T T E
Y R O D A E I M O G K U A I R
R O L R T E F U C A D M O E
O S D I C N E T R S L S I N V
S T E E T S U G E E T A L T E
I B R A R C T I C E E O C G S
V I L O C A T I O N R Z R O Y
D T S I G O L O R O E T E M L
A E R U T A R E P M E T S S S

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Advisory, Arctic, Blizzard, Clear, Climate, Clouds, Coat, Colder, Direction, Environmental, Forecast, Freeze, Frostbite, Gust, Heat, Insulation, Lake, Local, Location, Meteorologist, News, Radar, Rain, Season, Severe, Smog, Snow, Speed, Spring, State, Storms, Street, Summer, Temperature, Thunder, Time, Trees, Update, Water, Weather, Wind, Winter
Yesterday's Answer: Buttery
The NEW Treasury 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Dodgers top Giants amid news of death of broadcaster Scully



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In a game played as Vin Scully's death was announced by the Dodgers, Los Angeles beat the San Francisco Giants 9-5 on Tuesday night behind Mookie Betts' home run and three RBIs.

The Giants played a tribute on their video board after the final out at Oracle Park, the stadium where, in October 2016, Scully broadcast the final game of his 67 seasons with the Dodgers. He died Tuesday at age 94.

Los Angeles won its six straight game over the Giants and improved the major leagues' best record to 70-33.

Tyler Anderson (12-1) won his fourth straight decision, Betts finished a triple shy of the cycle and Gavin Lux and Cody Bellinger drove in two runs apiece. Trea Turner and Austin Barnes added RBIs for Los Angeles, which has won six of its last seven games.

Anderson allowed five runs and six hits in five innings with four walks and three strikeouts.

Joey Bart homered for San Francisco, which fell to 3-10 since the All-Star break. David Villar and Luis González also drove in runs for the Giants.

Padres 13, Rockies 5, 1st game

In San Diego, San Diego rallied to beat Colorado in the first game of a doubleheader, hours after the Padres obtained superstar Juan Soto of the Washington Nationals in one of the biggest trades in baseball history.

The trade was announced a few minutes before first pitch. The crowd of 23,828 at Petco Park applauded loudly when an image of Soto and Josh Bell, who also came from the Nats, was shown on the video board early in the game.

The Padres fell behind 3-0 early, but bounced back. Jurickson Profar had a career-high five hits and drove in two runs, Kim Ha-seong had a career-high four hits and two RBIs, and Jake Cronenworth added a two-run homer.

Yu Darvish (10-4) allowed a two-run home run by Randal Grichuk with no outs in the second and a solo shot by Brendan Rodgers leading off the fourth.

Nationals 5, Mets 1

In Washington, Jacob deGrom dazzled in his first major league start in more than a year, allowing one run on three hits and striking out six in five innings before a bullpen meltdown cost New York against Washington.

Sidelined for the second

half of last season by an elbow injury and shut down late in spring training because of a stress reaction in his right scapula, deGrom delivered a 99 mph fastball on his first meaningful pitch since July 7, 2021. He threw 46 of 59 for strikes before coming out of the game.

Francisco Lindor homered for the NL East leaders in the sixth.

Mariners 8, Yankees 6

In New York, pinch-hitter Sam Haggerty opened the seventh inning with a go-ahead homer, Andrés Muñoz escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth and Seattle hung on for a victory over New York after blowing a four-run lead.

The switch-hitting Haggerty batted for left-handed hitting Jarred Kelenic against left-hander Lucas Luetge (3-4) and broke a 6-6 tie by lifting a 1-0 cutter into the left-field seats.

Haggerty connected after Josh Donaldson hit a tying two-run homer in the sixth off Logan Gilbert.

Seattle is 5-8 since entering the All-Star break with 14 straight wins.

Eugenio Suárez and Cal Raleigh hit early homers off Jameson Taillon, who allowed four walks. Taillon gave up six runs — five earned — in 4 2/3 innings.

Carlos Santana drove in three runs. He hit a sacrifice fly to give Seattle a 4-0 lead in the third and added two-run double in the fifth.

Adam Frazier hit an RBI single in the ninth off Albert Abreu.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched seven spotless innings with longtime catcher Yadier Molina back behind the plate, and St. Louis beat Chicago.

Paul Goldschmidt homered and drove in three runs to lead the St. Louis offense. Dylan Carlson hit a two-run shot and made a nice catch in center field. Nolan Arenado also went deep.

Wainwright (8-8) allowed six hits and struck out four without a walk.

Wainwright and Molina made their 317th career start as batterymates, passing the Boston/Milwaukee Braves duo of Warren Spahn and Del Crandall for sole possession of second place in major league history since 1901. The only pair in front is Mickey Lolich and Bill Freehan (324) of the Detroit Tigers (1963-75).

Red Sox 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Rafael Devers



The scoreboard at Oracle Park shows a message for broadcaster Vin Scully after the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the San Francisco Giants in a baseball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022.

homed with two RBIs in his return from the injured list to lead Boston over Houston, hours after they acquired veteran first baseman Eric Hosmer in a trade with San Diego.

Devers didn't show any signs of rust in his return after sitting out since July 23 with inflammation in his right hamstring. He hit an RBI double in the fourth inning before hitting a tie-breaking solo homer with two outs in the sixth inning to help Boston to its third straight victory.

Tommy Pham singled and scored on the double by Devers in his debut with the Red Sox after a trade from Cincinnati on Monday.

The trade for Hosmer comes a day after they sent catcher Christian Vázquez to the Astros, a move that had some players worried the team was giving up on the season.

Hosmer was part of the deal with Washington for Juan Soto before he refused the trade and the Padres instead shipped him to Boston along with two minor leaguers and cash in exchange for minor league left-hander Jay Groome.

Angels 3, Athletics 1

In Anaheim, Calif., David Fletcher hit a leadoff homer, José Suarez didn't allow an earned run in his second consecutive start and Los Angeles defeated Oakland.

Elvis Andrus had three hits and Sean Murphy reached base three times along with driving in a run for the Athletics, who have dropped three straight following a four-game winning streak.

Fletcher — who missed 69 games due to a left hip strain

— drove a fastball from Cole Irvin (6-8) over the left-field wall in the first inning.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Kevin Gausman allowed one hit and struck out 10 over eight innings and Toronto opened a nine-game trip with a win over Tampa Bay.

The Blue Jays have won 11 of 13 and increased their lead over Tampa Bay to four games for the top AL wildcard spot.

Gausman (8-8) threw 75 of 103 pitches for strikes. Jordan Romano worked the ninth to get his AL-best 25th save despite allowing Taylor Walls leadoff homer in the ninth.

The Blue Jays were busy before the trade deadline an hour before first pitch. They acquired two-time AL All-Star utilityman Whit Merrifield from Kansas City, and got relievers Anthony Bass and Zach Pop from Miami.

Braves 13, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Spencer Strider struck out a career-high 13 in six-plus innings, Eddie Rosario tied a career high with five RBIs and Atlanta beat Philadelphia for its fourth straight win.

The defending World Series champions moved within 2½ games of the NL East-leading New York Mets.

Strider (6-3) allowed one run and three hits. He won consecutive starts against Phillies after beating them 6-3 last Tuesday at Philadelphia. Only two of his last 18 batters reached, a walk to Kyle Schwarber in the third and a single by Darick Hall that ended Strider's night.

Atlanta scored six runs in the fifth, five off Corey Kneb-

el. Orlando Arcia hit his sixth homer, a two-run shot, for an 8-1 lead.

Tigers 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Riley Greene had two hits and two RBIs as Detroit snapped a three-game skid and spoiled Minnesota's big trade deadline day.

Minnesota made big moves to bolster its hopes for a division title by acquiring starter Tyler Mahle and right-handed relievers Jorge López and Michael Fulmer before the deadline. Fulmer made the short walk from one clubhouse to the other after the trade from Detroit was announced.

But it was the last-place Tigers who earned a win. Greene, Akil Baddoo and Javier Báez had RBI singles in a three-run seventh inning.

White Sox 9, Royals 2

In Chicago, Eloy Jiménez had three hits and four RBIs, José Abreu homered and Chicago pounded Kansas City.

The White Sox made no major moves prior to the trade deadline and will bank on improvement from within as they try to overtake Minnesota and Cleveland to win their second straight AL Central championship.

Jiménez singled and scored in a three-run first inning and smacked a two-run double in the fourth to bump Chicago's lead to 5-2. He added a long sacrifice fly in the sixth before Abreu chased Royals starter Brad Keller (5-12) with a two-run homer off the left-field foul pole, making it 8-2.

Gavin Sheets hit a solo homer in the seventh, helping Chicago move back above .500 at 52-51. The White Sox are 24-29 at home.

Pirates 5, Brewers 3

In Pittsburgh, rookie Oneil Cruz hit a three-run homer to spark a five-run sixth inning as Pittsburgh rallied past NL Central-leading Milwaukee, snapping a seven-game skid.

Cruz hit a blast to dead center field off reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Corbin Burnes, pulling the Pirates into a 3-all tie. Pittsburgh then added two runs to win for the first time since July 23.

The Brewers had their four-game winning streak snapped, one day after trading All-Star closer Josh Hader to San Diego. Milwaukee had also won seven of eight.

Reds 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Graham Ashcraft allowed one unearned run in a career high 8 1/3 innings and Cincinnati beat Miami to extend its winning streak to four games.

The 24-year-old Ashcraft (5-2) scattered five hits and struck out three. He was lifted after Jesús Aguilar's one-out double in the ninth. Alexis Díaz relieved and retired the next two batters for his fourth save.

The Reds had only three hits against four Marlins pitchers, but Aristides Aquino's two-run single in the first was enough.

Orioles 8, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jorge Mateo homered twice and drove in five runs to help Baltimore beat Texas.

Batting ninth in the lineup, Mateo set his single-game highs for home runs and RBIs. He has 10 homers and 32 RBIs this season.

Texas starter Spencer Howard (2-3) retired the first six Baltimore batters. He hit Ramon Urias with a pitch leading off the third inning and walked rookie Terin Vavra before giving up Mateo's first homer. Adley Rutschman singled home a fourth run, and the lead grew to 5-0 on a sacrifice fly by Ryan Mountcastle.

Diamondbacks 6, Guardians 3

In Cleveland, Christian Walker hit a three-run homer, Alek Thomas had a two-run double and Arizona beat Cleveland to stop a four-game losing streak.

Carson Kelly hit a solo homer, had three hits and scored two runs for Arizona, which never trailed in winning at Progressive Field for the first time since Aug. 13, 2014.

Zac Gallen (6-2) allowed three runs, six hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings, striking out five. Ian Kennedy picked up his fifth save.

Brittney Griner back in Russian court on cannabis charge



KHIMKI, Russia (AP)—American basketball star Brittney Griner was back in court on Tuesday for her trial for cannabis possession amid U.S. diplomatic efforts to secure her release.

During the hearing, prosecutors called a state narcotics expert who analyzed cannabis found in Griner's luggage. Her defense fielded a specialist who challenged the analysis, charging that it was flawed and didn't conform to official rules.

Griner was escorted into court in handcuffs and placed inside a cage in the trial in Khimki, a town on the northern edge of Moscow. While in the cage she held up personal photos.

The trial adjourned until Thursday, when closing statements are scheduled.

If convicted, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star and two-time Olympic gold medalist could face 10 years in prison. As her trial has progressed, the Biden administration has faced growing public pressure to get her released.

In an extraordinary move, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week spoke to his Russian counterpart, Sergey



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner stands behind bars in a courtroom for a hearing, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022.

Lavrov, urging him to accept a deal under which Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction, would go free.

The Lavrov-Blinken call marked the highest-level known contact between Washington and Moscow since Russia sent troops into Ukraine more than five months ago,

the direct outreach at odds with U.S. efforts to isolate the Kremlin.

People familiar with the proposal say it envisions trading Griner and Whelan for the

notorious arms trader Viktor Bout. It underlines the public pressure that the White House has faced to get Griner released.

White House Press Secre-

tary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Monday that Russia has made a "bad faith" response to the U.S. government's offer, a counteroffer that American officials don't regard as serious. She declined to elaborate.

Griner has acknowledged there were vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage when she was arrested at a Moscow airport in February. But she insisted that she had no criminal intent and that the canisters ended up in her luggage because she was packing hastily. Griner played for a Russian women's basketball team in the WNBA off-season.

To bolster her case, her defense lawyers have presented testimony from doctors that she was prescribed cannabis as a treatment for pain. Medical marijuana treatment is not legal in Russia.

"There are a lot of factors that will taken by the court into account," Griner's attorney Maria Blagovolina told reporters after Tuesday's hearing, adding that Griner "admitted that she did bring something, but we need to know what she did bring."

While judges have leeway to consider mitigating factors under Russian law, acquittals are rare and account for less than 1% of cases in Russian criminal prosecutions.

A conviction, however, could potentially pave the way for Griner's exchange as Russian officials said it could only happen after the judicial process is completed.

Tom Firestone, a Washington attorney who formerly served as legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said Griner could be handed a tough sentence as a way for Russians "to maximize their leverage in negotiations." He told The Associated Press that Russia "may want to let this play out a little bit longer and try to extract more concessions."

Russian officials have scoffed at U.S. statements about the case, saying they show a disrespect for Russian law. They remained poker-faced, urging Washington to discuss the issue through "quiet diplomacy without releases of speculative information."

Asked about the latest White House comment regarding the Russian counteroffer, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn't offer any details.

"Any exchange of information on the subject should be discreet without any 'loudspeaker diplomacy,'" he told reporters. "Public exchange of positions will not yield any result."

Reactions to the death of NBA great Bill Russell



Reaction from the basketball world and beyond on the death of NBA great and 11-time champion Bill Russell:

■■■■■
"Bill Russell was the greatest champion in all of team sports. The countless accolades that he earned for his storied career with the Boston Celtics — including a record 11 championships and five MVP awards — only begin to tell the story of Bill's immense impact on our league and broader society." — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement.

■■■■■
"Today, we lost a giant. As tall as Bill Russell stood, his legacy rises far higher — both as a player and as a person." — President Barack Obama said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"The promise of America is that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. We've never fully lived up to that promise, but Bill Russell made sure we never walked away from it.

"By August 1963, he had won six of what would be 11 NBA championships in his 13 years in the league with the Boston Celtics, a defining career that would include

five regular season Most Valuable Player awards, an Olympic gold medal, and serving as the first Black coach of any major sports league in America.

"But on the historic day of August 28, 1963, there he was at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as a towering champion for freedom, equality, and justice as Dr. King delivered a dream for the Nation.

"That was Bill Russell. From a childhood in segregated Louisiana to a career playing on the biggest stages in sports at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Bill faced the hostility and hate of racism embedded in every part of American life. Yet, he never gave up. Throughout his life, he forced us to confront hard truths. And on this day, there are generations of Americans who are reflecting on what he meant to them as someone who played for the essential truth that every person is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect.

"Bill Russell is one of the greatest athletes in our history — an all-time champion of champions, and a good man and great American who did everything he could to deliver the promise of America for all Americans."

— President Joe Biden.

■■■■■
"To be the greatest champion in your sport, to revolutionize the way the game is played, and to be a societal leader all at once seems unthinkable, but that is who Bill Russell was. Bill was a champion unlike any other in the history of team sports — an 11-time NBA champion, including winning eight consecutive titles, a five-time MVP, an Olympic Gold Medalist and the NBA's first Black head coach." — the Boston Celtics said in a statement.

■■■■■
"Rest in peace Bill Russell you were everything we all aspired to be, your winning spirit will live forever my friend. Thank you for your words of wisdom." — Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"He was one of the first athletes on the front line fighting for social justice, equity, equality, and civil rights. That's why I admired and loved him so much. Over the course of our friendship, he always reminded me about making things better in the Black community." — Hall of Famer Magic Johnson tweeted.

■■■■■
"Thanku for being a trailblazer, pioneer Thanku for setting the bar, for ur kind words of wisdom, Thanku for that great laugh u had. I can go on all day about what u meant to me. Today is a sad day for the NBA family u will be forever missed #6" — Celtics great Paul Pierce said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"Bill Russell was a pioneer — as a player, as a champion, as the NBA's first Black head coach and as an activist. He paved the way and set an example for every Black player who came into the league after him, including me. The world has lost a legend ... may he rest in peace." — Hall of Famer and Charlotte Hornets majority owner Michael Jordan said in a statement.

■■■■■
"Bill Russell was bigger than basketball, even though he was one of the greatest players of all times. He stood for Civil and human rights before it was trendy, in fact when he did it, it was risky! A true giant on and off the court, May he Rest In Peace and Power!" — Reverend Al Sharpton said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"R.I.P Bill Russell. You allowed me to be in the position I am in today and you

changed not only the league but the world. Forever 6." — Celtics player Grant Williams said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"People like Bill, he's a bridge to all the struggle that generation went through to get to that point. If everyone could take a little bit of what Bill Russell did for his entire life, we'd be a better world. The things he did with Kareem and Jim Brown and pushing everything forward with equality. They were the first to do it when it meant giving something up along with Muhammad Ali. Giving up things they loved to do for the betterment of this country." — Phoenix Mercury guard Diana Taurasi.

■■■■■
"RIP Bill Russell, a giant in every sense of the word - athletic, civil rights, altruistic - the whole lot RIP champ!" — Tennis great Martina Navratilova said on Twitter.

■■■■■
"Bill Russell was a once in a generation activist athlete who made all of those around him better on and off the court. He had a career of firsts and led the way for so many. I admired him my entire life and he had a huge influence on my career and my life. He was the ultimate leader, ultimate team player and the ultimate champion." — Tennis great Billie Jean King. (AP)

Queen of the Diamond still spotless in women's division

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Queen of the Diamond continued to inflict royal pain on their opponents as they remain unscathed in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

The now 3-0 team's latest victim is Hot Shots after Queen of the Diamond defeated them, 8-2, last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Queen of the Diamond took the initiative early as runs by Kianu Aldan and Kiana Camacho gave them a 2-1 lead after the first inning. Hot Shots' score was courtesy of Erica Tenorio.

After a scoreless second, Queen of the Diamond erupted for three runs in the following inning as Camacho, Erin Mendiola, and Amy Cabrera all touched home plate. Britney Luzama's run was Hot Shots' meek reply in the third.

Pitcher Bert Camacho then proceeded to silence Hot Shots' batters the rest of the game even as Queen of the Diamond scored four more runs to put away the victory with plenty to spare. The loss dropped Hot Shots below the .500 mark at 1-2.



LEIGH GASES

Hot Shots continued its search for a win after losing to league-leading Queen of the Diamond last Sunday in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

In the only other women's game in the Budweiser BASA League last Sunday, Tokehao Ladies nipped Lady Eagles' wings, 4-3. It was a come-from-behind win by the now 1-2 team as Lady Eagles actually were coasting to victory up 3-1 until Tokehao Ladies erupted for four runs in the last inning to shock their opponents. The defeat meant that Lady Eagles continued its stay in the cellar with 0-3 win-loss card in the women's team standings.

The current statistical leaders across offensive and defensive categories of both the men's and women's divisions of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

HERAS

From Page 20

tion," the Saipan International School student said.

Heras and Elliot's match against Tahiti was still being played as of press time and will be reported in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Playing coach Bobby Cruz and Colin Ramsey, meanwhile, dropped their first two ties against Samoa last Tuesday and Cook Islands yesterday.

Cruz lost to Samoa's Marviin Soonalole, 0-6, 0-6, in the first singles match last Tuesday.

Ramsey also went down in defeat against Samoa's Leon Soonalole in the second singles match, 5-7, 2-6.

In the doubles match, Harley Cronin and Marviin Soonalole made it a 3-0 win for Samoa after turning back Cruz and Ramsey, 6-2, 7-5.

Yesterday against Cook Islands, Cruz showed a little more spunk before going down against Arikitoa Allsworth, 2-6, 0-6.

Ramsey also fell against Maka Maui, 2-6, 2-6, and in the doubles match the CNMI pair succumbed to Allsworth and Maui, 2-6, 3-6.

The CNMI National Tennis Team currently seeing action in the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup would like to thank the following sponsors for making their trip to Fiji possible: Paradise Dental, the Rotary Club of Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, as well as other generous community donors.

After three consecutive years of postponements due to COVID-19 border closures, the International Tennis Federation-sponsored 3rd Pacific Nations Cup finally got underway Tuesday.

The Oceania Tennis Federation-organized event was officially opened by Fiji Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Minister Faiyaz Koya with representatives from major sponsor, Punjas Group, also in attendance.

There are eight men's and eight women's national teams competing in two pools of

four teams each with the Top 2 teams in each pool playing crossover semifinals to then determine the playoff for the medal matches.

In the men's event, the two seeded teams are Tahiti (No. 1) and Samoa (No. 2). In the women's event, the two seeded teams are Samoa (No. 1) and Fiji (No. 2).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI National Tennis Team member Colin Ramsey holds the CNMI flag during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji.

CHAMPI

From Page 20

his motocross journey when he was just 17 years old in

his native Negros Occidental in the Philippines.

In the Novice Class, Aric Cruz took the checkered flag with 47 points. He was followed by Joseph Santos and

Bob Ferrer with 43 points and 42 points, respectively.

Corry Pangelinan, meanwhile, topped the Intermediate Class with another perfect 50 points. Tristan

Sablan was second with 42 points. Third place Henry Camacho Jr. actually tied Sablan in points but was third to Pangelinan and Sablan in the second heat.

The results of the rest of the classes in MRA's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

AASISH

From Page 20

"I don't have a specific person to dedicate this accomplishment to, but I would like to thank my family who always believed and supported me. Credit also goes to [Tsunami Saipan] coach Hiro [Kimura] who taught me how to swim and built a great foundation in my swimming career and my current coaches here at Albany Armada Aquatics who have molded me into the

swimmer I am," he said.

Sanjay and Ren Dangol, meanwhile, said they're always proud of their children for all the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice they put into becoming better in what they do.

"Aasish takes swimming very seriously. He is very dedicated to this sport. He tries to have a 100% practice attendance no matter what. I remember, as soon as he did his 200m butterfly, he got out of the pool and hugged me, and

although out of breath, said that he got the futures time standard and now would be ranked as the fastest 13-year-old. I was so happy that his hard work paid off and he made all of us very proud," said Ren.

She added that what is great about Aasish's discipline in swimming is that he always finds a way to motivate himself even during his lows.

"He makes practice not just because he needs to go to but a way to improve and work on

his swimming."

Dangol started swimming when he was just 4 years old because his older sister, Ashley, was already swimming with Tsunami Saipan.

He went to the Guam Swimming Championships the first time when he was 7 years old and won the championship in the boys 8-and-under division.

Dangol then participated in the Tokyo Junior Sprint the next year for the first time when he was 8 years old and amazingly won the gold med-

al of the 50m butterfly.

A few months later, the swimming prodigy broke the CNMI age group record in the same event in the Saipan International Meet.

The following year, Dangol was back in the Tokyo Junior Sprint and took home the bronze medal of the 50m butterfly and 100m individual medley.

Then in 2019 when Dangol was 10 he and his family moved to the U.S. mainland in California.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	70	35	.667	
Toronto	58	45	.563	11
Tampa Bay	54	49	.524	15
Baltimore	53	51	.510	16½
Boston	53	52	.505	17

Central Division

Minnesota	54	49	.524	
Cleveland	53	50	.515	1
Chicago	52	51	.505	2
Detroit	42	63	.400	13
Kansas City	41	63	.394	13½

West Division

Houston	67	38	.638	
Seattle	56	49	.533	11
Texas	46	57	.447	20
Los Angeles	44	59	.427	22
Oakland	39	66	.371	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	65	38	.631	
Atlanta	63	41	.606	2½
Philadelphia	55	48	.534	10
Miami	47	57	.452	18½
Washington	36	69	.343	30

Central Division

Milwaukee	57	46	.553	
St. Louis	55	48	.534	2
Cincinnati	42	61	.408	15
Chicago	41	61	.402	15½
Pittsburgh	41	62	.398	16

West Division

Los Angeles	70	33	.680	
San Diego	60	46	.566	11½
San Francisco	51	53	.490	19½
Arizona	46	57	.447	24
Colorado	46	60	.434	25½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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of broadcaster
Scully**
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Diamond still
spotless in
women's division**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heras, Elliot beat Vanuatu in Fiji

By MARK RABAGO
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Isabel Heras and Hye Jin Elliot won their debut in the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup after beating Vanuatu in Lautoka, Fiji.

ITF International Tennis Federation
Elliot topped Vanuatu's Marie Liwuslili in the first singles match, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2. The three-setter lasted 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Lorraine Bainimatuku evened the score at 1-1 after she got the better of Heras, 6-4, 7-5, in the second singles match that finished after 2 hours and 6 minutes.

In the crucial women's doubles to decide the tie, Elliot and Heras lost the first set against Liwuslili and Bainima-



Isabel Heras, left, and Hye Jin Elliot, seen here in a file photo from the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, gave the CNMI a 2-1 win against Vanuatu at the start of the 2022 Pacific Nations Cup in Lautoka, Fiji last Tuesday.



NMPMG2022/NORMAN DEL ROSARIO

tuku, 2-6, before winning the second, 6-2, to force a super tiebreaker that they eventually won, 10-7. The doubles match was faster than the two previous singles matches at 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Herras said she and Elliot are just overjoyed to be part of the Pacific Nations Cup this year.

"The team is really happy to be here competing against all the seven other nations participating. I'm excited to play this tournament with Hye Jin. I think we can place well in this tournament! Hye Jin fought hard and won her singles in three sets and played amazing in doubles! I'm looking forward to seeing how the tournament goes!" she said.

For her part, Elliot thanked Fiji for the warm hospitality Team NMI has so far received.

"I thought that the people were very welcoming toward all the players. Also, I am looking forward to some competi-

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'Champi' scores 3rd win in Veterans Class



TISHA FERRER

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas in action in the Veterans Class of last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
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Lenard "Champi" Villacanas won the Veterans Class for a third time in last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

Aboard his trusty 2022 Yamaha YZF450, Villacanas won both heats for a perfect score of 50 points.

Fellow Trench Tech Racing rider Cuki Alvarez came in second in both heats for 44 points, while Dave Celis

completed the Top 3 with 40 points.

When asked why he seems to be dominating the Veterans Class of the Marianas Racing Association-organized race, 41-year-old heavy equipment operator at Construction Materials Supply humbly replied that he attributes it to the long layoff as well as his dedication to the sport of motocross.

"I was able to relax a bit as we had to make way for the [Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022]. That

gave me a lot of time to rest. In fact, I only went back to practicing two weeks before the July race because I always had work on Saturday and Sunday is my rest day."

Villacanas, who previously won the April and May races in the division, added that despite the muddy conditions last Sunday, he was able to pull off the win by just riding steady and safe.

He is also dedicating his July victory to his family as well as his Trench Tech Racing team. Villacanas started
See CHAMPI on Page 19

Aasish top 13-year-old in 200m fly

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Former Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center member Aasish Dangol is now the No. 1-ranked 13-year-old swimmer in the 200m butterfly in the country.

This, after the son of Sanjay and Ren Dangol swam the event in the recent 2022 PC LCM Far Westerns with a time of 2:09.

"I don't feel much different, I am excited to go up in age, and maybe my goal for next season can be to be the fastest 13-14 year old in the nation. I think it will also be fun to go to bigger and faster meets," Aasish said.

The younger Dangol said the meet in Concorde, California was actually his second attempt at swimming the fastest 200m butterfly for a 13-year-old.

"Recently, I went to a four-day meet called sectionals, where I tried to go at 2:10 lcm 200 butterfly time. The time of 2:10 is a time standard for a meet called futures. I just missed it and

went a 2:11, which ranked me as the third fastest 13-year-old, but I had another swim meet the very next week. The next week at a meet called Far Westerns, on the third day, I went a 2:09 in my 200m butterfly which got me a futures cut and ranked me as the fast-

est 13-year-old 200m butterfly in the nation."

The Albany Armada Aquatics, LLC swimmer dedicated his most recent achievement to his family as well as current and former swimming coaches.

See AASISH on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aasish Dangol shows off the medals he won in a recent meet where he also installed himself as the No. 1 13-year-old swimmer in the 200m butterfly in the U.S.